

## FUN WITH WORDS

HEDWIG LEWIS, S.J.

Here is an exciting, amusing, unique book of Word-games: *Anagrams, Conundrums, Jumbles, Limericks, Palindromes, Proverbs, Puns* . . . to mention but a few of them. It is a handy guide for organizers of parties or camps; it is a traveller's ticket to pleasure. But above all, it is a *vocabulary-builder*. It provides *fun* with *words*, thus enabling the reader increase word-power and usage with ease!

\* \* \*

By the same author

## HOW TO STUDY

This book provides the *know-how* of efficient study. It is a practical manual that can help the motivated student to manage study time, develop *reading* and *writing* skills, improve *concentration*, master *note-taking* techniques, discover efficient *memory-aids* and learn effective approaches to the *examination*. All the principles are based on psychologically sound and scientifically tested methods of study. All "learners" young and old, will find this book highly beneficial to them.

Hedwig Lewis

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Hedwig Lewis S. J.

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(A Vocabulary Builder With A Difference)

*Third Edition*

*Revised and Enlarged*

**HEDWIG LEWIS, S.J.**

DIRECTOR

*Xavier Institute of Languages*

PROFESSOR AND COUNSELLOR

*St. Xavier's College*

*Ahmedabad*



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## FOREWORD

The first edition of *Fun With Words* vanished like hot cakes, while it was still fresh from the press. An amazing variety of readers, young and old,—lovers of semantic antics, organizers of parties and camps and word-based competitions, travellers, teachers and students in India and abroad—relished the word-games. Thanks to that overwhelming response, in the second, duly revised edition, over fifty exciting new games had been included to increase the fun. In this present edition, only a dozen or so new items have been added, but the games have been rearranged under specific headings.

*Fun With Words* is no common fun-book. It is primarily a *vocabulary-builder*—with a difference. The difference lies in its approach. It contains hardly any textbook type of exercises. Rather, it is full of word-games, a large and interesting variety of them, that stimulate and challenge as they instruct and entertain. All the main items have been carefully devised to promote word-building. Matter that could go well in a volume of pure fun or in a puzzle-book, but would not be directly suited to our purpose, has been deliberately kept aside. Nevertheless, the fun remains. Readers with a fair knowledge of English can enjoy *learning while playing!* The exercises provide a good deal of fun.

*Fun With Words* has been widely used as a profitable teaching-aid in schools. Tongue Twisters, Crazy Reading, Exercises for Sounds... come in handy at Public Speaking sessions. Word Ladders, Limericks, Conundrums... provide useful occupation at *free periods*. Most of the word-games can be played systematically and regularly for building-up vocabulary. Teachers with initiative can use these games as *models* for further creative work along similar lines.



### ON YOUR MARKS...

Why is F U N not a personal matter?

Why are W O R D S even less personal?

(Answers at the end of the book)

So let's share the fun. Ready? Here's how you do it for a start. Call a friend and ask him or her to pronounce j.o.k.e. and p.o.k.e; then s.o.a.k. and f.o.l.k; then the *white* of an egg. You can be almost certain that the last one will be pronounced YOLK. But the yolk is *yellow*! Your friend's trapped. Again, when a friend visits you, show him you appreciate his presence in the form of a riddle which you must ask him to solve: *My first I hope you are; my second I see you are; my whole I know you are.* The answer is WELCOME. Got the idea? This book is full of "funny" things, which you will enjoy working out on your own first, and then trying out on your unsuspecting friends. They'll enjoy them too!

### GET SET...

We have noted earlier that the main purpose of this book is to enable you to increase your word-power. You will come across hundreds of new words. If you wish to master them and use them, it is necessary that you make the effort required. When you are at an exercise that seems too difficult or puzzling at first try, do not easily skip it. Tackle it with a little patience, controlling your urge to turn to the last pages for the solutions. Your spirit of challenge will be duly rewarded. You will get more than "*a little mental entertainment.*" (Repeat that last bit again. Again, please. And again, faster this time. Faster still, will you...? Sorry if you've got your tongue twisted!)

And here's another challenge. Why not become a *word-detective*? All you have to do is, after you have finished an exercise, expand it with your own ideas by digging out more clues for new words. For instance, if you are given eight clues, add another eight of your own, wherever possible. Or you may want to become a *word-smith*, fashioning new word-games with your creative imagination? Give a twist to the *games* you find in this book. Discover newer ways of presenting them. You are bound to have fun, fun and more fun with words all the way!

### GO...

53. FUNNY LANGUAGE	86
54. ONE AND ONLY	87
55. ONCE MORE, PLEASE	87
56. SHADES OF MEANING	88
57. PUNNY RIB TICKLERS	89
58. MISHAPS	90
59. AT THE ZOO	91
60. RIGHT EXPRESSIONS	92
61. ANTONYMS	92
62. LOGIC FROLIC	93
63. SENSIBLE MARKS	94
64. THE RIGHT STRESSES	95
65. DOGGERELS	96
66. SPELLINGS	97
67. PREPOSITIONAL POWER	98
68. LITERATE IGNORAMUS	99
69. CHILD'S PLAY	100
70. CREATIVE VOCABULARY	101
71. RELATIVELY SPEAKING	102
72. CELLAR AND SHALE	102
73. DICTIONARY NEEDED	103
74. NONSENSE VERSES	108
75. PUNNY VERSES	109
76. RIDDLE TIME	109
77. DROP LETTER PUZZLE	112
78. COUPLETS	113
79. TWISTER TOADS	114
80. BREVITY IS THE SOUL OF WIT	114
81. QUICK WITS	115

82. SILENT LETTERS	116
83. CLICHES	116
84. THE SPOONERISM	117
85. FREAKY LIMERICKS	119
86. WHAT DID THEY SAY?	120
87. WORDS CHAIN	121
88. CAN CAN	122
89. WHO'S WHO	122
90. ABRACADABRA	123

FUN WITH WORD FACTS	125
---------------------	-----

SOLUTIONS	131
-----------	-----

## 1. BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

Below you will find sets of clues which lead you to words that either begin or end with the same letters. When making a guess, in case of doubt, refer to your dictionary *before* you check for the correct answers given at the end of the book.

A. The following set of clues will help you find words beginning with C A T. The answer to the first one is CATTLE.

- (a) A cat kept by farmers.
- (b) A cat that shoots.
- (c) A cat well listed.
- (d) A cat buried underground.
- (e) A cat that is tricky, deceptive.



- (f) A cat that provides for all tastes.
- (g) A cat that attacks the eyes.
- (h) A cat that is broad-minded.
- (i) A cat that belongs to a specific class.
- (j) A cat that meets with sudden disaster.

**B. Find words beginning with C A N.**

- (a) A can made of wax.
- (b) A can of sweetmeat.
- (c) A can made of coarse cloth.
- (d) A can containing tear-gas.
- (e) A can belonging to the dog.
- (f) A can used to collect votes.
- (g) A can containing a tumour.
- (h) A can fixed to a gun-carriage.
- (i) A can full of flowing water.
- (j) A can in which soldiers carry water.

**C. From the clues provided, find words that end in ANT.**

- (a) This ant is on a slope.
- (b) This ant is ever watchful.
- (c) This ant is openly disobedient.
- (d) This ant is an officer in the army.
- (e) This ant has entered a competition.
- (f) This ant can charm and delight you.
- (g) This ant is far away in space and time.
- (h) This ant is very submissive to commands.
- (j) This ant gets angry, especially at injustice.

**D. From the following clues find words that end in ATE.**

- (a) choke
- (b) puff up
- (c) give orders
- (d) not extreme
- (e) crazy with love
- (f) honour the memory of
- (g) leave the beaten track
- (h) share or exchange views
- (i) move around a central point
- (j) move up and down, irregularly

**E. From the following clues find words ending in AGE.**

- (a) A destructive age.
- (b) The age for travelling.
- (c) The age that drains out.
- (d) The age that takes you places.
- (e) The age in which spies abound.
- (f) The age in which middlemen earn.
- (g) The result of a nuclear age and war.
- (h) The age which has a reputation for old quality models.
- (i) Age of a man of experience and wisdom.
- (j) The age at which two people are wedded together.

- F. The clues provided below will lead you to find words that end in A C T.

You have THE ACT WHICH...

- (a) draws the attention away
- (b) makes heads turn towards you
- (c) is accurate
- (d) takes away
- (e) takes things out
- (f) means a collision
- (g) is packed like sardines
- (h) carries out business
- (i) makes an agreement
- (j) respects others' feelings

- G. From the given clues find words that end in STING.

- (a) A sting that satisfies your hunger.
- (b) A sting that cures your fatigue.
- (c) A sting that makes you laugh.
- (d) A sting that breaks rocks to bits.
- (e) A sting that gives a swollen head.
- (f) A sting that you hate.
- (g) A sting that compels you to compete.
- (h) A sting that is used by policemen.
- (i) A sting used to remove fine powder from the table-tops.

- H. Find words that end in T (-ty), with the help of these clues.

- (a) Tea for a famous person.
- (b) Tea that is very heavy.
- (c) Tea drunk in the slums.
- (d) Tea that killed the cat.
- (e) Tea as much as you want.
- (f) Tea that arrives on time.
- (g) Tea that has a pleasant flavour.
- (h) Tea that is prepared in a hurry.
- (i) Tea drunk at a favourable time.
- (j) Tea that enters the holes in your teeth.

## 2. CHINESE TEA SONG

A popular English magazine once published the following song which it claimed was sung before the Queen by a Chinese lady. At first glance it may appear unintelligible; but with a little study it becomes easy to read.

Ohc ometo th ete asho pwit hme  
Andb uya po undo f thebe st.  
'Twillpr oveam ostex cellentt ea.  
Itsq ua lit yal lwi lla tte st.

'Tiso nlyf oursh illi ngs apo und.  
Soc omet othet eama rtan dtry.  
Nob etterc anel sewh erebefou nd.  
Ort hata nyoth er needb uy.



### 3. WORD LADDERS

If you like milk with tea, then heat it. Here's how you go about it, step by step.

You are given two **Word Ladders** as examples. Observe how you can HEAT the MILK by changing just *one letter* at every step to form *new* words that gradually lead you to the required word.

HEAT	MILK
MEAT	HEAT
MELT	HEAL
MALT	HELL
HALT	HILL
HALE	MILL
MALE	MILK
MILE	

The first ladder consists of seven steps, the second only four. The skill lies in making your ladder as *short* as possible.

A. Make Word Ladders of the following sets, each having not more than *three* steps.

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) DEER to FOND | (b) BORE to SONG |
| (c) BENT to READ | (d) CARE to RICH |
| (e) FARE to BOND | (f) GALE to SAIL |

B. Make word-ladders of the following sets, each with not more than three steps.

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) SEEK to FIND | (d) GAIN to TOIL |
| (b) FIND to LOSE | (e) SILK to FIRE |
| (c) LOSE to PART | (f) HEAT to COLD |
| (g) FACT to LUCK |                  |
| (h) WANT to DARE |                  |
| (i) BOSS to HOST |                  |

- C. (a) Change SHOE to BOOT in not more than two steps.  
(b) Change CAT to DOG in not more than two steps.  
(c) Change ROSE to LILY in not more than four steps.  
(d) Change HARD to EASY in not more than four steps.  
(e) Change WARM to COLD, step by step, a letter a step, in not more than three steps.  
(f) Change WHEAT to BREAD in not more than six steps.  
(g) Change DRINK to BLEND in four steps.  
(h) Reach the BEANS on the SHELF in not more than seven moves.

#### D. Lupine Steps

Lupine means wolfish. A wolf was on the rampage. It first entered a sheep-FOLD; carried away a sheep and stripped it to the BONE; then prepared a small FIRE to roast it.

Starting with WOLF you must build *three* word-ladders going down step by step, changing one letter at a time, to end with FOLD, BONE, and FIRE respectively.

Note: all three ladders will begin with WOLF.

#### 4. LIMERICKS

- (a) A collegiate damsel named Breeze,  
Weighed down by B.A.'s and Litt.D's.,  
Collapsed from the strain;  
Alas it was plain—  
She was killing herself by degrees.
- (b) There was a young fellow of Ealing  
Endowed with such delicate feeling,  
When he read on the door,  
"Don't spit on the floor."  
He jumped up and spat on the ceiling.
- (c) A diner while dining at Zuhu,  
Found a rather large mouse in his stew.  
Said the waiter, "Don't shout  
And wave it about  
Or the rest will be wanting one, too."

- (d) There was a young lady of Niger,  
Who smiled as she rode on a tiger.  
They returned from the ride  
With the lady inside—  
And the smile on the face of the tiger.



- (e) There was an old lady of Kent  
Whose nose was remarkably bent.  
One day, they suppose,  
She followed her nose,  
For no one knows which way she went.
- (f) There was an old man from Peru,  
Who dreamed he was eating his shoe.  
He awoke in the night  
In a terrible fright—  
And found it was perfectly true.
- (g) There was a young lady of Kent,  
Who always said just what she meant;  
People said, "She's a dear—  
So unique—so sincere—"  
But they shunned her by common consent.

With a little imagination, you will be able to prepare some of your own limericks.

To help you on, here are some suggestions:

- (a) There was an old man with a nose (first line)
- (b) The girl called...next door (first line)
- (c) Who swore he had seen a U.F.O. (second line)
- (d) Who had quite a fanciful dream (second line)
- (e) But she said, "How dare (third &  
You so insolently stare fourth lines)

## 5. RIDDLES AND CONUNDRUMS

Riddles form part of all folklore and literature from the earliest times. A riddle may be presented in the form of a statement, or a question, or a description, that forces you to think hard in order to get at the meaning or find the solution.

A conundrum is related to the riddle. It is based upon some imagined similarity between things that are quite different. The answer to the puzzling question often involves a pun, or a play upon words.

A classic riddle is that put by the Sphinx, a strange monster that crouched on a hill above the city of Thebes in Greece. She waited to kill men who passed by, if they could not answer this riddle:

What is it that walks on four legs in the morning,  
on two at noon, and on three in the evening?

Oedipus, the hero of Homer's "Oedipus Rex", guessed the riddle correctly, and in despair the Sphinx jumped off the cliff. Oedipus' answer:

MAN. He crawls in the dawn of life, walks erect in his prime, and in his old age requires a walking-stick.

## RIDDLES FOR YOU TO SOLVE

- (a) If you pull it, it's a cone; push it, it's a tent.
- (b) What is too much for one; enough for two; nothing for three?
- (c) My first is a circle, my second a cross;  
If you meet with my whole, look out for a toss.
- (d) What has three feet but cannot walk?
- (e) What is always coming but never arrives?

## CONUNDRUMS YOU WILL ENJOY

A conundrum you must note, may appear simple, and you will get easily fooled if you are not careful. Beware of tricks, puns, play on words while puzzling out the answers. The first one has been done for you.

- (a) What does everybody do at the same time?  
(Grow older)
- (b) How can you make a cigarette lighter?
- (c) If you were to throw a white stone into the Red Sea what would it become?
- (d) What's worse than finding a worm in the apple you're eating?
- (e) Which man in town do people listen to with open mouths?

## 7. CRAZY SEESAW

Mr See and Mr Sore were old friends. See owned a saw and Sore a seesaw. Now See's saw sawed Sore's seesaw before Sore saw See's saw, which made Sore sore with See. Had Sore seen See's saw before See's saw sawed Sore's seesaw, then See's saw would not have sawed Sore's seesaw. But See saw Sore and Sore's seesaw before Sore saw See's saw. So you see how See's saw could saw Sore's seesaw. It was a shame to see See see Sore so sore with See, just because See's saw sawed Sore's seesaw.



## 8. SOUND LANGUAGE

- A. Students learning to speak English find themselves utterly confused when asked to pronounce certain words. The problem arises mainly from two facts. One, a particular combination of letters may have several sounds. Look at these: *cough, tough, though, through, thorough, plough, ought*. Two, a particular sound may be represented by several combinations of letters. For instance, *friend, beauty, bread, answer*, etc. In order to satirize this second fact, Bernard Shaw posed a difficult question to people:

"How do you pronounce g.h.o.t.i.?"

The answer: FISH: *gh* as in rough; *o* as in women; *ti* as in nation.

How do you pronounce the following?

**Ghoughphtheightteau**

Want a hint? It is eaten as a vegetable and grows underground.

### B. Sounds Words

The following sounds are generally associated with certain things. Find as many associations of each sound as you can. E.g.: pattering = rainfall, footsteps.

- (a) crackling (b) rustling (c) hissing (d) shuffling  
(e) ticking (f) creaking (g) jingling (h) grinding  
(i) squealing (j) squeaking (k) peeling (l) rattling

### C. Sounds Twins

- (i) Some words, because of their peculiar sounds, lend themselves to duplication. We say *chit-chat*, for instance. Below you will find such twin words in a jumble. Pair them correctly.

knick pocus hotch raff ding slop razzle  
song hugger dazzle slip pit knack hocus  
potch criss pat skelter riff mugger tip  
zig helter zag top dong cross sing

- (ii) Find the correct pairs:

raggle flip teeny wishy namby willy dilly  
hurry pell ship walkie tell taggle weeny  
waggle nilly mell talkie tale flop washy  
pamby dally scurry shape wiggle

### D. Sound Spelling

Words that sound the same but are spelled differently, and have a different origin and meaning, (mail-male; pair-pear), are called HOMOPHONES.

Of the two homophones to be found for each clue below, one will answer the clue, the other will sound the same and will be the name of an animal. The first set of Homophones is HOARSE-HORSE.

- a. gruff voice      b. lovable person      c. vital organ  
d. no dressing whatever      e. it silvers with age  
f. slow, monotonous speaker      g. stuff for bread

### E. Sound and Letter Disagree

When the English tongue we speak,  
Why is break not rhymed with freak?  
Can you tell me why it is,  
Namely is written viz.?  
Will you tell me why it is true  
We say sew but likewise few?  
And the maker of a verse  
Cannot match his horse with worse.  
Beard sounds not the same as heard,  
Cord is different from word.  
Cow is cow, low is low  
Why is shoe not rhymed with foe?

Think of hose, dose, and lose,  
And of goose and yet of choose.  
Think of comb, tomb and bomb,  
Doll and roll and home and some.  
And since pay is rhymed with say,  
Why not paid with said I pray?  
We have blood, and food and good;  
Mould is not pronounced like could.

Wherefore done but gone and lone?  
Is there any reason known?  
Is there any sensible ground to say  
Wound for hurt, while string is wound?

Do you call it equity  
 To say mutton and yet mutiny?  
 Do you think it really wise  
 To speak of advertisement if you advertise?

So, in short, it seems to me  
 Sound and letter disagree!

## F. Homonyms

A Homonym is a word that is the same in form and sound as another but different in meaning.

For example: the floor of a ship/decorate-DECK.  
 Find homonyms from the clues given below.

- (a) window covering/lack of vision
- (b) grim-faced/rear end of a sea-vessel
- (c) harsh sound/tall vessel
- (d) a quantity of bread/spend time idly
- (e) a cane/to fix
- (f) a social gathering/an inflated piece of leather for games
- (g) well adapted/sudden attack of hysteria
- (h) weight-lifter/to stretch one's neck
- (i) a small animal/dark spot on skin
- (j) tool for smoothing edges/a line of people

## 9. WORD JUMBLES

- A. The letters in the words below are jumbled up. Unscramble them to find words that have something to do with your eyes and mouth; place these words in the boxes provided.

HUGLA

--	--	--	--	--

AREST

--	--	--	--	--

THOUS

--	--	--	--	--

PELSE

--	--	--	--	--

LIMES

--	--	--	--	--

Now, with the encircled letters, make another word.

Clue: The singer couldn't sing because of a.....throat

- B.** All the jumbled words given below are terms used for 'remembering'. Unscramble them and place the letters in their proper boxes.

CLAREL						
VEERIS						
WERIVE						
DIMREN						
MYROME						

Now unscramble the circled letters to fill in the blanks. The clues given in brackets are synonyms of the right word.

A person with a.....memory can make things past come alive in his mind. He remains.....(peaceful), because he has no.....(preoccupation) and hence, no grey hair!

### C. Ornithology

The following clues should help you guess the names of birds. You will find the answers in a jumble, and in a different order, below.

WHAT BIRD...

- is a letter of the alphabet?
- means to sell things in the street?
- is very quick, fast?
- means a country?
- means a bit of fun, or to fool about?
- means to cheat, deceive?
- means to grumble?
- is pushed down the throat?
- sings with closed lips?
- means weak-hearted?
- means a loud, shrill cry?
- feels or shows fear?

(LULG, MUHNIMG, WITFS, ROWC, AJY, RALK, SLOWWAL, ESUGOR, WAKH, LAIUQ, KRUTEY, KECHINC)

### D. Scrambled Birds

Unscramble these jumbled words to find the names of some common birds found in India.

- |             |            |             |             |
|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| (a) okle    | (b) ulbbu  | (c) gluelas | (d) recan   |
| (e) amny    | (f) ratrop | (g) gonipe  | (h) ropwars |
| (i) rutulve | (j) nepeha | (k) worc    | (l) capkeoc |

### E. Animals

Hidden below are the names of a dozen animals you would find at a zoo. To discover them, you must spell out the names, beginning from only *one* of the four corners if you want to get them correct. You may move up, down or sideways, but when you have finished one name, you must start the next by moving only to the next letter up, down or sideways.

D G E H A R I G  
E H B O G F R D  
R E R E Z F A O  
D E A F O E P E  
N O I X W A H L  
I G L O L T E E  
P R E H F R S H  
P A N T H O E C

### F. Fruit Salad

Seven kinds of common Indian fruit have gone into making this salad. Each fruit is, of course, in bits and pieces. Can you tell which are the fruit?

- (a) ten page ramo    (b) an abna    (c) plain peep  
(d) son game    (e) pagers    (f) fact kruij    (g) a vuga  
(h) apa pay    (i) one gar    (j) palep    (k) lump

### G. Jumbled Pairs

You are given a list of words in pairs. You must take one letter out of the first word and add it to the second one. The letters in both words must then be rearranged to form words that have some relationship with one another. For example, in the first pair, take *t* from the first word and transfer it to the second; by rearranging the words you get: *feel* and *taste*. Do the rest.

- (a) fleet and sate    (d) write and year  
(b) grapes and grade    (e) stir and miser  
(c) corks and tone    (f) heats and corn

### 10. TONGUE TWISTING

Sometimes words are arranged in such an order in a sentence, that pronouncing them aloud quickly calls for a good deal of tongue-twisting. Try these. Read each sentence five times over, without a pause, and as fast as you can.

Bug's bad blood.  
Rubber baby buggy bumpers.  
The stinking steamer sunk.  
Whip gig, whip gig, whip gig.  
A critical cricket critic.  
Some shun sunshine; some shun shade.  
A growing gleam glowing green.  
Shoes and socks shock my shy sister.  
Two tired toads tried to toddle to town.  
Three free thugs set three thugs free.  
Show me the chair she sat in when she was shot.



## 11. ANALOGIES

- A. An analogy is a comparison. For example, we can draw an analogy, or comparison, between the human eye and the camera. In each of the following, find the item that best completes the analogy. You may need a dictionary to check the meanings of the given words.
- (i) POSTSCRIPT is to LETTER as (a) epilogue is to play (b) prudent is to caution (c) cover is to lid (d) sleeve is to coat.
  - (ii) BLUNT is to SHARP as (a) beacon is to light (b) sorrow is to melancholy (c) conservative is to radical (d) colleague is to friend.
  - (iii) CATASTROPHE is to CASUALTY as (a) cold is to hot (b) warm is to hot (c) torture is to tame (d) disaster is to person killed.
  - (iv) LUCID is to CLEAR as (a) chide is to child (b) adept is to skillful (c) despicable is to punishment (d) reprieve is to condemn.
  - (v) SOOTHE is to AGGRAVATE as (a) nimble is to lithe (b) hide is to divulge (c) despicable is to erroneous (d) maltreat is to chide.
  - (vi) Complete these sentences:
    - (a) Potential is to actual as future is to .....
    - (b) Ruler is to line as compass is to .....
    - (c) Mountain is to land as ..... is to sea.

## B. Supply the words that complete the analogy:

- (a) sugar sweet, vinegar .....
- (b) athletes track, boxer .....
- (c) soldiers regiment, trees .....
- (d) guilty convicted, innocent .....
- (e) city urban, village .....
- (f) Hindu temple, Sikh .....
- (g) cloth mill, iron .....

## 12. SIMPLE SIMILES

- A.
- a. As \_\_\_\_\_ as silk.
  - b. As \_\_\_\_\_ as ABC.
  - c. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a fiddle.
  - d. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a mule.
  - e. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a fox.
  - f. As \_\_\_\_\_ as an ox.
  - g. As \_\_\_\_\_ as the weather.
  - h. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a feather.
  - i. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a bat.
  - j. As \_\_\_\_\_ as lightening.
- B.
- a. As fresh as ..... b. As bitter as .....
  - c. As hard as ..... d. As firm as a .....
  - e. As gentle as a ..... f. As busy as a .....

Apart from the standard similes above you must *invent*

your own. Suggest fresher similes for each of the following:

as light as a feather  
as cold as ice  
as slow as a snail  
as heavy as lead  
as red as beetroot

### A TIRED SONG OF TIRED SIMILES

As mute as a mackerel, darling, I am;  
Yet fit as a fiddle, dear, gay as a lamb;  
As clean as a whistle, as ugly as sin;  
As fat as a hog and as neat as a pin;  
As brave as a lion, but deaf as an adder;  
As brown as a berry, as mad as a hatter.

While you, my own darling, the love of my life,  
Are free as the wind, and as sharp as a knife;  
As blind as a bat and as sly as a fox,  
As pert as a sparrow, as dumb as an ox;  
As plump as a partridge, as red as a rose,  
As flat as a flounder, as plain as my nose.

So come, let us marry!—and we shall be twain  
As merry as crickets, and richer than rain!  
Our days will be brighter than rainbows are bright;  
Our hearts will be lighter than feathers are light.  
Our love will be surer than shooting is sure.  
*And poorer we'll be, dear, than churchmice are poor.*

### 13. A TOUGH FIGHT

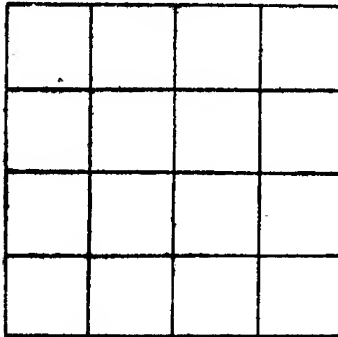


General Fite stormed the fort of General Fort. Fite fought at Fort's fort before Fort could fight Fite, but Fite's unfortified fort enabled Fort to fight Fite better than Fite fought Fort. So Fite fought Fort and Fort fought Fite at Fort's fort and, boy, how Fort fought Fite! If Fort had fought Fite before Fite's unfortified fort instead of Fort fighting Fite before Fort's fort then Fort and Fite might not have fought and there would be no need for Fort's fort and Fite's fight.

## 14. WORD SQUARES

A. Form six four-letter *word-squares* from the clues given below. Make sure that the words read the same *down* as *across*.

- (a) — household pests  
— measured land  
— football eleven  
— similar
- (b) — ready money  
— can do  
— indistinct speech  
— main character



- (c) — narrow opening  
— to exist  
— used for baking  
— used for camping
- (d) — avoid  
— stocking  
— advantages  
— cosy place
- (e) — not quick  
— attract  
— minerals  
— opposite of East
- (f) — strong chord  
— above  
— juicy fruit  
— does wrong

B. What begins with T, ends with T, and is full of T? TEAPOT, of course. Here's a word-square with T at the four corners. The dots stand for missing letters. Can you complete the square? The words must read the same *across* and *down*. You can make two different word-squares from the given clues.

Example

A	T	E
T	E	A
E	A	T

Word Square:

T	.	.	T
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.
T	.	.	T

Clues:

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| (a)                   | (b)                      |
| — a horse's walk      | — something you point at |
| — talk wildly         | — what you find when     |
| — a small furnace     | you dig a pit            |
| — a soldier's shelter | — a sigh of regret       |
|                       | — a mini examination     |

### C. Anagrams Square

In the following puzzle, all the words across have the same letters but in a different order. The placement of one letter is indicated. Find the words.

(a) M . . . (b) . A . . . (c) N . . .  
 . M . . . . A . . . N . . .  
 . . M . . . A . . . N . . .  
 . . . M . . . A . . . N . . .

### D. Three For a Dozen

Given below are three sets of clues to help you find four-letter words that will read the same down as across when placed in the boxes.

- (a) — make hot  
 — make looser  
 — he questions  
 — trial
- (b) — push or poke  
 — anger  
 — man-eating giant  
 — stags
- (c) — reflected sound  
 — informal term for boy  
 — larger than a rabbit  
 — not sealed


### E. Down and Across

From the clues given, fill this box with four different word squares that will read the same down as across.

#### Clues (a)

- useless material
- eager longing
- talks wildly
- prevent, avoid
- destructive insects

#### Clues (b)

- animal's nose
- earth's Pole
- speak publicly
- say, total
- not here

1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

#### Clues (c)

- loud cry
- stable animal
- command
- those who use
- to the point

#### Clues (d)

You are given only the letters that make up the words:

AACCCEEEIINNOOO  
 PRRSSTTTTT

## 15. PROVERBS

- A. The number of dashes in each line of this design indicate the number of letters that each of the answers below contains. Fill in the blanks.

(a) — — —  
 (b) — — — — —  
 (c) — — — — — — —  
 (d) — — — — — — — — —  
 (e) — — — — — — — — — — —  
 (f) — — — — — — — — — — — — —  
 (g) — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —  
 (h) — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —  
 (i) — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —  
 (j) —  
 (k) — — —

- (a) Clothes do not make the .....  
 (b) A stitch in time saves .....  
 (c) To err is ....., to forgive divine.  
 (d) A ..... in need is a friend indeed.  
 (e) Birds of a ..... flock together.  
 (f) Beggars are not .....  
 (g) ..... is the best policy.  
 (h) The ..... may be worse than the disease.  
 (i) United we ....., divided we fall.  
 (j) You can't make an omelette without breaking ....  
 (k) You can't teach an old ..... new tricks.

## B. Opposite Proverbs

Most positive sayings have their opposites, too. For instance, *Haste makes waste* can be replied with *He who hesitates is lost*. Below are two lists, the first containing 'positive' proverbs, and the second their opposites. Can you find the correct pairs?

### Positive Proverbs

- (a) Out of sight, out of mind.  
 (b) Practice makes perfect.  
 (c) It is never too late to learn.  
 (d) Good things come in small packages.  
 (e) He who hesitates is lost.  
 (f) Two is company, three is a crowd.  
 (g) Never judge a book by its cover.  
 (h) Nothing ventured, nothing gained.  
 (i) Many hands make light work.  
 (j) Actions speak louder than words.

### Opposites

- (a) The pen is mightier than the sword.  
 (b) The more the merrier.  
 (c) Clothes make the man.  
 (d) Too many cooks spoil the broth.  
 (e) You can't teach an old dog new tricks.  
 (f) Better safe than sorry.  
 (g) Act in haste, repent in leisure.  
 (h) The bigger the better.  
 (i) Absence makes the heart grow fonder.  
 (j) All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

### C. Proverbial Animals

There are many common expressions in English which involve living creatures. From the clues given below, can you guess which animal or bird or reptile is being referred to? The answer to the first clue is WOLF—to keep the wolf from the door. The clue, as you can see, explains the expression.

- (a) To earn enough to keep from starvation.
- (b) A person who is mean, contemptible.
- (c) To have a short, light sleep.
- (d) A sociable person idolized by the girls.
- (e) To mimic, imitate somebody.
- (f) To overpower someone, instilling fear in him.
- (g) To exult loudly; to boast.
- (h) Something extraordinarily big, great.
- (i) Rough or boisterous antics, pranks.
- (j) Hoarseness.

### D. Popular Expressions

Here are some proverbs, popular expressions, which have been twisted. Can you guess the originals?

- (a) Facts are safer than fiction.
- (b) Don't cry over split spirits.
- (c) Celerity is the dice of life.
- (d) Too many crooks spoil the coup.

- (e) Spare the road and spoil the car.
- (f) A thought in mind is worth two in a book.
- (g) To preach is human, to practice divine.
- (h) Absence makes the memory grow feebler.
- (i) You may lead a student to a book, but you cannot make him think.
- (j) Levity is the ghoul of grit.

### D. Proverbial Quiz

Here are some questions to test how well acquainted you are with some common proverbs.

- (a) What is the best policy?
- (b) What animals seldom bite?
- (c) Who must not be choosers?
- (d) What makes Jack a dull boy?
- (e) Who always blames his tools?
- (f) What keeps the doctor away?
- (g) What breaks the camel's back?
- (h) What can't you teach an old dog?
- (i) What makes the heart grow fonder?
- (j) What are the stepping stones to success?
- (k) What shouldn't you put in one basket?
- (l) What gathers no moss?
- (m) What should you cut according to your cloth?

## 16. PHYSICAL PROWESS

There was a young lady of Flint  
Who had a remarkable squint;  
    She could scan the whole sky  
    With her uppermost eye  
While the other was reading fine print.

There once was a boy of Bagdad.  
An inquisitive sort of a lad.  
    He said, "Let us see  
    If a sting has a bee."  
And he very soon found out it had.

There was an odd fellow of Tyre,  
Who constantly sat on the fire.  
    When asked, "Are you hot?"  
    He said, "Certainly not.  
I'm James Winterbotham, Esquire."

There was a young man at the War office,  
Whose brain was as good as a store office.  
    Every warning severe  
    Simply went in one ear.  
And out at the opposite orifice.

There was an old man of Berlin.  
Whose eyeballs were made out of tin.  
    Whenever he cried  
    They went rusty inside  
And brown tear drops ran down his chin.

## 17. EXPRESSIONS

### A. Body Language

Here are some expressions related to the human body, with their meanings given in a separate column and in a different order. Match the pairs. For example, 'up to the eyes' means 'extremely busy'.

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| (a) up to one's eyes       | (a) be on your guard with              |
| (b) knit the brows         | (b) precariously, on small income      |
| (c) have the cheek         | (c) go for a walk                      |
| (d) be tongue-tied         | (d) extremely busy                     |
| (e) skin of one's teeth    | (e) do something as fast as possible   |
| (f) fight tooth and nail   | (f) force someone to submit            |
| (g) from hand to mouth     | (g) something to argue, complain about |
| (h) keep at arm's length   | (h) concern with trifles               |
| (i) left-handed compliment | (i) struggle hard                      |
| (j) be all ears            | (j) frown                              |
| (k) split hairs            | (k) to be bold, brash                  |
| (l) have a bone to pick    | (l) to listen attentively              |
| (m) stretch one's legs     | (m) of doubtful sincerity              |
| (n) bring him to his knees | (n) small margin, narrowly             |
| (o) put best foot forward  | (o) too shy or fearful to speak        |

## B. A Nosey—Parker

Who is a 'nosey-parker'? An inquisitive person. Here are some figures of speech involving the nose. Can you tell what they mean?

- (a) right under one's nose
- (b) put somebody's nose out of joint
- (c) poke one's nose into somebody's business
- (d) follow one's nose
- (e) as plain as the nose on one's face
- (f) keep one's nose clean
- (g) lead somebody by the nose
- (h) look down one's nose at somebody
- (i) turn one's nose up at someone
- (j) cut off one's nose to spite one's face



## C. The Heart Speaks

Here are several figures of speech related to the heart. Do you know what they mean?

- (a) from the bottom of one's heart
- (b) heart in one's mouth
- (c) have your heart set on something
- (d) at heart

- (e) to one's heart's content
- (f) heart and soul
- (g) the heart of the matter
- (h) have one's heart in the right place
- (i) take heart
- (j) take to heart
- (k) with all one's heart
- (l) break a person's heart

## D. Idioms

Explain the following idioms

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| (a) an armchair critic      | (b) a bitter pill   |
| (c) ask for trouble         | (d) lip service     |
| (e) not my cup of tea       | (f) pull strings    |
| (g) blind leading the blind | (h) at a loose end  |
| (i) a bolt from the blue    | (j) out of the blue |
| (k) be on the carpet        | (l) break the ice   |
| (m) as the crow flies       | (n) down and out    |
| (o) against the grain       | (p) a die-hard      |
| (q) in the long run         | (r) hue and cry     |
| (s) read between the lines  | (t) in a nutshell   |
| (u) to square up with       | (v) be in a rut     |
| (w) to weather the storm    | (x) a rolling stone |



### E. Sayings and Doings

- (a) When a person says: "I took it with a pinch of salt," he is  
(i) having his meals (ii) gulping his medicine  
(iii) showing he does not believe (iv) superstitious
- (b) "To talk shop" means:  
(i) to chat in a shop (ii) to discuss what to buy  
(iii) to talk about your interests  
(iv) to encourage someone to buy something
- (c) To give someone the cold shoulder means.  
(i) pat him on the back (ii) knock against him while playing  
(iii) refuse to speak to him  
(iv) speak to him frankly and openly.
- (d) Which of these has something to do with the Nobility?  
(i) once in a blue moon (ii) a bolt from the blue  
(iii) blue blood in the veins (vi) a blue film
- (e) If someone shows you a clean pair of heels, it means.  
(i) he has just washed his feet (ii) he has holes in his socks  
(iii) he ran away from you as fast as he could (iv) he turned his back on you.
- (f) If you say to someone, "You're chicken", what would you mean?  
(i) that he is brooding over things (ii) that he is easily disturbed  
(iii) that he is a coward (iv) that he makes a good deal of noise.

### F. Speaking in Style

In each of the sentences below the words in *italics* are common idioms. Rewrite each sentence, replacing the idiom with a simple expression which brings out its meaning.

- (a) If you happen to fail in the examinations, you will be forced to *face the music*.
- (b) That sly smile of yours make me suspect that you *have a card up your sleeve*.
- (c) When did you return from the hospital? You look *fit as a fiddle*.
- (d) Please help the new man at the job; you *know the ropes*.
- (e) To get selected for the competition you will have to *pull strings*.
- (f) In times of crises most people tend to *blow hot and cold*.
- (g) It's time to accept this disappointment; it's no use *making a mountain of a molehill*.
- (h) Do not rely fully on him; he is *not worth his salt*.
- (i) You say that you feel sorry. Maybe you can *squeeze out a few crocodile tears*.
- (j) When the athlete won the race, he returned to the stands *walking on air*.
- (k) At the meeting the secretary suggested that we all *put on our thinking caps* in order to settle the issue favourably.

## 18. PARADOXICAL LANGUAGE

*A pin has a head, but it has no hair;  
A clock has a face, but no mouth is there.  
Needles have eyes, but they cannot see;  
A hill has a foot, but it has no knee.  
A watch has hands, but it has no fingers;  
Boots have tongues, but they aren't singers;  
Rivers run, though they have no feet;  
And a saw has teeth, but it cannot eat.*

## 19. DIFFERENCES

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN...

- (a) An elephant and a flea?
- (b) A donkey and a postage stamp?
- (c) A well-dressed man and a tired dog?
- (d) The rear light of a car and a book of fiction?
- (e) An engine-driver and a school master?
- (f) A nurse taking a patient's pulse and a champion runner?
- (g) A retired sailor and a blind man?
- (h) A wrestler and a man with a bad cold?
- (i) A mother and a barber?
- (j) A girl and an airmail stamp?
- (k) A cat and a comma?
- (l) A glutton and a hungry man?

## 20. ANAGRAMS

A. Reshuffle all the letters of the clues below to form single words with corresponding meanings. The answer to the first one is CONVERSATION.

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Voices rant on.  | (h) Let's rush.        |
| (b) A rope ends it.  | (i) Often sheds tears. |
| (c) Our men earn it. | (j) Mystics in a heap. |
| (d) Nine thumps.     | (k) I got a rat.       |
| (e) Sea term.        | (l) Cannot stir.       |
| (f) A stew, Sir?     | (m) Partial men        |
| (g) Restore plush.   | (n) I mean to rend it  |

## B. Word Twisting

Rearrange the letters of the words in capitals in each sentence, so as to form new words according to the clues given. The answer to the first is TEACHER.

- (a) Change CHEATER into an instructor.
- (b) Change TERRACE into one who provides food.
- (c) Change PRESENT into a long, legless reptile.
- (d) Change DEALER into the head of a group.
- (e) Change LEAST into something you write on.
- (f) Change ENLARGE into an army officer.
- (g) Change FINDER into someone you trust.
- (h) Change LAYER to broadcast a radio programme.

### C. Shifting Letters

All the answers to the four clues found in the following verses consist of the same four letters, twisted each time to form a new word.

I am bright as a whole  
Till you cut off my head;  
Then as black as coal,  
Or a mortal instead.

Shaken up and recast  
We with science are found,  
Read us back from the last  
And we live underground.

### D. Word Scramble

How many other words can you make by rearranging all the letters of each of the following words, for every new word:

- (a) SACRE            (b) MITRES            (c) ESPRIT

### E. Wrack your Brains

- (a) Pick out only four letters from the alphabet so that by juggling them, you can make S I X words, each having a meaning of its own.
- (b) Again, pick out five letters, and through various combinations make five words with them.



### 21. GO WENT

Mr Go and Mr Went had a date to see a ball game so... Go knew Went wanted to go but it depended upon when Went went so Go went to Went to get Went to go; but Went told Go to go so go went. After Go went Went went after Go to tell Go to go not knowing Go went to phone Went not to go. When Went went to tell Go to go and when Go went to let Went know Go wanted Went not to go is not known and that is why Go went without Went and Went went without Go.

### 22. THINGS CAN SPEAK

Push properly says the BUTTON  
Never be lead says the PENCIL  
Keep your mind filled says the BOOK  
Take pains; be open says the WINDOW  
Always keep cool says the ICE  
Be up to date says the CALENDAR  
Be sharp says the KNIFE  
Keep your hands busy says the CLOCK

## 23. TO THE POINT

### A. Fashion Show

The dresses that different types of people wear are made out of a variety of materials. Here is a list of some of them arranged in alphabetical order:

*canvas, cashmere, checks, cheesecloth, duck, goldcloth, lawn, net, oilcloth, organdy, prints.*

From the clues given below, can you guess which of the dress materials above is being referred to?

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| (a) for a garage-man. | (f) for an artist.  |
| (b) for an editor.    | (g) for a dairyman. |
| (c) for a fisherman.  | (h) for a jeweller. |
| (d) for a hunter.     | (i) for a gardener. |

### B. Play Place

You may have been to the theatre often, perhaps even been on stage. How well acquainted are you with the special names of the various parts of the theatre? Test yourself.

- (a) The **areas** on the **side** of the stage where actors wait.
- (b) The area where the **audience** sits.
- (c) The place where the actors can rest when not on **stage**.
- (d) The place where people meet on entering the theatre.

- (e) The entire area behind the stage.
- (f) The place in which the orchestra plays.
- (g) The place where tickets are issued.
- (h) The part of the stage which juts out towards the audience.

### C. At Home

How much at home are you with the various words that describe exactly the different parts of a house? Find out by fitting the descriptions given below with the words you will find mixed up on the right.

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| (a) place in roof for storing things         | landing       |
| (b) stone or plank under a doorway           | eaves         |
| (c) flat drawing of one side of house        | storey        |
| (d) horizontal division of a house           | basement      |
| (e) highest inhabited room or space          | attic         |
| (f) roofed platform along the sides          | rafters       |
| (g) area at the top of a flight of stairs    | joists        |
| (h) platform projecting from an outside wall | cellar        |
| (i) overhanging edges of a roof              | french-window |
| (j) area of house below ground level         | verandah      |
| (k) supports for roof                        | balcony       |
| (l) underground storage place                | loft          |
| (m) outline drawing as seen from above       | cavity        |
| (n) floor supports                           | elevation     |
| (o) air space within walls                   | plan          |
| (p) window and door combined                 | threshold     |

## D. Tea Things

There are several words that go with *tea*. Can you match the expressions in the left column with their meanings on the right?

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| (a) tea-caddy   | (a) cover for keeping teapot warm                 |
| (b) tea-cloth   | (b) tea fermented before roasting                 |
| (c) tea-chest   | (c) where tea is served out-of-doors              |
| (d) tea-cosy    | (d) air-tight box for tea-leaves                  |
| (e) tea-garden  | (e) tea roasted while fresh-gathered              |
| (f) tea-service | (f) used for drying washed tea things             |
| (g) black tea   | (g) set of cups, tea-pot, milk-jug, etc.          |
| (h) green tea   | (h) large wooden boxes packed with tea for export |

## E. To each his own

Each of the instruments given below are used by people as part of their job. Find what belongs to whom, from the names given below in brackets.

- |                 |           |             |              |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| (a) awl         | (b) baton | (c) cleaver | (d) crampons |
| (e) forceps     | (f) gavel | (g) hoe     | (h) lathe    |
| (i) loom        | (j) plane | (k) plumb   | (l) scalpel  |
| (m) safety lamp |           |             |              |

(mountaineer, judge, potter or turner, cobbler, butcher, mason, surgeon, miner, conductor of music, weaver, gardener, dentist, carpenter)

## 24. WEDDED WORDS

### A. Emphatically Speaking

We often use words in pairs for the sake of emphasis. Often the words are pure repetitions (first and foremost). Sometimes they add emphasis by containing contrasted things (root and branch). Can you correctly pair the words below?

- |              |     |               |
|--------------|-----|---------------|
| i. (a) odds  | and | (i) nail      |
| (b) rank     |     | (j) span      |
| (c) ways     |     | (k) square    |
| (d) might    |     | (l) parcel    |
| (e) part     |     | (m) main      |
| (f) fair     |     | (n) means     |
| (g) spick    |     | (o) file      |
| (h) tooth    |     | (p) ends      |
| ii. (a) skin | and | (a) square    |
| (b) fire     |     | (b) low       |
| (c) fair     |     | (c) bone      |
| (d) sound    |     | (d) drabs     |
| (e) off      |     | (e) dry       |
| (f) high     |     | (f) on        |
| (g) high     |     | (g) brimstone |
| (h) bits     |     | (h) fury      |
| (i) dribs    |     | (i) pieces    |

## B. Three in a Row

In English, there are sets of words that go together. We began this book, if you remember, “on your mark, get set, go”. Words like ‘hop, skip and jump’ also form a set. Below you have three lists. By choosing one word from each list, make sets of three words that usually go together.

- |             |         |         |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| (a) healthy | women   | spoon   |
| (b) hook    | willing | song    |
| (c) wine    | sweat   | charity |
| (d) stop    | stock   | sinker  |
| (e) lock    | left    | go      |
| (f) ready   | wealthy | tears   |
| (g) faith   | fork    | centre  |
| (h) knife   | line    | wise    |
| (i) blood   | look    | barrel  |
| (j) right   | hope    | able    |

## 25. TONGUE FUN

Faithful friends freely forgive.

A skunk sat on a stump; the skunk thunk the stump stunk, but the stump thunk the skunk stunk.

Silver sails slipped silently southwards.

A foolish fellow finds fault freely.

Much whirling water makes the mill-wheel work well.

Thieves and thugs think not of thriftiness.

## 26. LETTERS HAVE FUN

- (a) What word of eight letters has five syllables?
- (b) What five-letter word, when two letters are taken out of it, leaves six?
- (c) What word becomes present when sliced into two bits?
- (d) Give at least five words that contain all the vowels.
- (e) Which five-letter word is generally spelled wrong?
- (f) Can you find a six-letter word from which you can form at least six other words, without changing the order of the letters?
- (g) Give a five-letter word that contains four pronouns.
- (h) Seek a word of three syllables, till you find. That it has in it twenty-six letters combined.
- (i) Remove two letters from a five-letter word and have one left.
- (j) Which five-letter word can lose four letters without changing its sound?
- (k) Which nine-letter word has only one vowel in it?
- (l) Remove five letters from an eight-letter word so as to have ten left.
- (m) Make a sentence containing the word “that” seven times in a row.
- (n) What word of one syllable, losing its first two letters, becomes a word of two syllables?

## 27. PLAYING WITH WORDS

A PUN is a play on words. It consists in using a word that has more than one sense or which can easily be confused in sound with another word when placed in a different context. This adds to the fun. Here are some examples:

"Did you hear of the man who swallowed his tea-spoon?"

"No. What happened to him?"

"He cannot stir!"



Ashok: My hen laid two eggs yesterday.

Vimal: That's nothing. Two days ago my father laid a foundation stone!

Joe: Have you studied a blotter?

Jim: No, why?

Joe: It's very absorbing!

Customer: Waiter, this coffee tastes like mud!

Waiter: Well, sir, it was *ground* yesterday.

## 28. WORD FUSION

There are numberless English words that can be broken-up into shorter words—MAR GIN; WAR DEN; CAN DID ATE; NOT ICE ABLE — which have hardly anything to do with the original word itself.

From the given clues, find the two three-letter words that combine to form a third new word having an entirely different meaning.

- A. (a) Fester — homonym of eight  
(b) a vehicle — a playful kitten  
(c) to place — to become free of  
(d) to succeed — to endeavour  
(e) settled down — knock lightly on door  
(f) to damage — an alcoholic drink
- B. (a) *Not on* combines with *frozen water* to form \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) *Finish* combines with *meant for listening* to form \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) *Obese* combines with a *feminine pronoun* to form \_\_\_\_\_  
(d) A *close friend* combines with *the highest card* to form \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) A *motor vehicle* combines with *decay* to form \_\_\_\_\_

## 29. FILLINGS

- A. In the passages that follow, the blank spaces stand for a three-letter word that is part of a larger word. The numbers inserted before or after the blank space indicate the number of letters to be added in order to complete the word. The three-letter word is common to all words in each passage. You will find it easy to guess the word if you read the passage over once before trying. For example, in the following sentence, the three-letter word is *ear*:

His (1) ..... friend was (1) ..... (3) a set of  
(1) ..... (1) rings on each .....

The words are: *dear, wearing, pearl, ear*.

- (a) The (4) ..... (3) in charge of the fortress discovered that things were going out of (1) ..... The enemy paratroopers had (1) ..... (2) the previous night. So calling together the Major ..... a few other officers, he (3) ..... (2) that they take a very firm (2) ..... against deserters.
- (b) It was an old ship. The sides ..... (4) every time there was a strong wind, and the cabins were full of fierce-looking .... (1). But the passengers were (1) ..... (4) to the captain, even though he was at one time a (2) ..... (1), because he had stacked the hold with wooden (1) ... (2) full of food-stuff.

## B. The Balancing Act

Some words in English begin and end with same letters. For example, *edged*; *edified*. Find such balancing letters to complete the following words according to the clues given. The dots indicate the number of letters to be found.

- |                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) ..tat..     | pieces of land property     |
| (b) ..gib..     | easily read                 |
| (c) ..r..       | enthusiasm, life and vigour |
| (d) ...ergro... | to go into hiding           |
| (e) ..luvi..    | deposited by river          |
| (f) ..sul..     | for diabetics               |
| (g) ..oute..    | the most obese              |
| (h) ..liv..     | brighten, animate           |
| (i) ..rmina..   | come to an end              |
| (j) ..aseab..   | land ready for renting      |

## C. Pull Outs

Each of the following sets of letters have been pulled out from the words that contained them. Can you find the words? Don't change the order of these letters when you form the words. E.g. HYT: RHYTHM.

- (a) ILLA (b) PSH (c) THW (d) SHF (e) HTH  
(f) NKN (g) PSI (h) RRH (i) NOS (j) THAR



## D. Word Challenge

Here is a very challenging word-game. You are given a word with some letters missing. The missing letters, when put together in the order in which they appear in the big word, form a little word that is a *synonym* of the big one that contains it. The answer to the first one is *u.s.e.* Can you find the others? We have provided you with clues to make the task lighter, but see if you can find the synonyms without the help of the clues.

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) - tili - -         | find a purpose for         |
| (b) - - mpa - -        | run about in furious anger |
| (c) - - r - ail        | break to make shorter      |
| (d) ca - umn - - -     | false statements           |
| (e) - ont - i - er     | a metal box                |
| (f) enco - - a - -     | push someone ahead         |
| (g) e - - - u - - -    | make room for              |
| (h) - - te - -         | most recent                |
| (i) - - ularit -       | a happy spirit             |
| (j) - l - -            | a good hint                |
| (k) pe - - - bu - at - | walk aimlessly             |
| (l) - - p - - - -lion  | dishonest person           |
| (m) - - - there -      | slipped                    |
| (n) - - - io - - -     | fasten with pin            |
| (o) - - l - ag -       | prevent from loss          |
| (p) ob - - rv -        | look carefully             |
| (q) - - ce - se -      | no longer alive            |

## E. Taken for a Ride

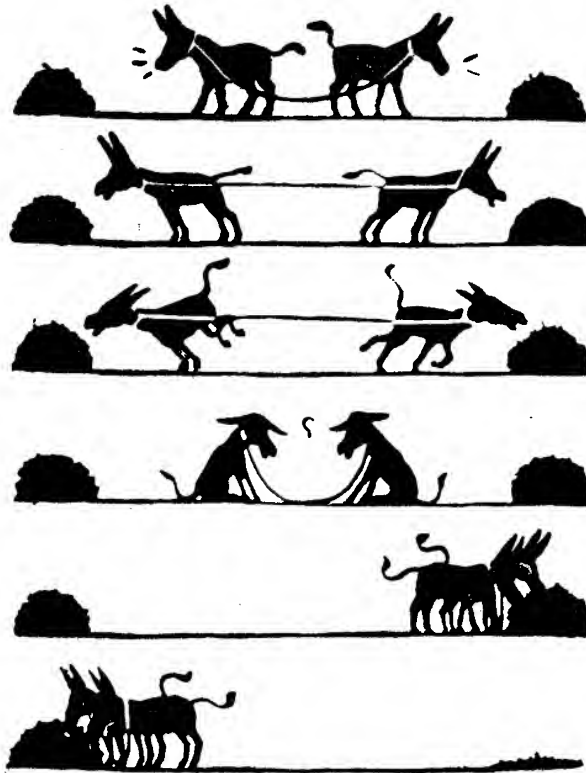
Below you have the word PERAMBULATOR arranged vertically. Every alternate letter of the word either begins or ends a six-letter word, which, accordingly begins or ends with E. Can you find the words?

	P . . . . E
E . . . .	E
	R . . . . E
E . . . .	A
	M . . . . E
E . . . .	B
	U . . . . E
E . . . .	L
	A . . . . E
E . . . .	T
	O . . . . E
E . . . .	R

## 30. WOMAN'S LIB?

Female has a *male* in it. Woman has a *man* in it. Lady has a *lad* in it. Madam has an *Adam* in it. SHE will always have a *HE* in it, whether she likes it or not!

**31. A PICTURE IS WORTH  
A THOUSAND WORDS**



**32. CONUNDRUMS YOU WILL LIKE**

- (a) Why is a lawyer like a tailor?
- (b) Why is a fish like a mountain?
- (c) Why is a wig like a lie?
- (d) Why are teeth like verbs?
- (e) Why are playing cards like wolves?
- (f) Why is a false friend like your shadow?
- (g) Why is a crossword puzzle like a quarrel?
- (h) Why is a horse like a lollipop?
- (i) Why is a magazine like a delicate child?
- (j) Why is a poor joke like a broken pencil?

**33. SHEER COMMONSENSE**

- (a) Why does a cow go over a hill?
- (b) When is a watchdog most likely to enter a house?
- (c) What does every duckling become when it first takes to water?
- (d) Why does a policeman have brass buttons on his coat?
- (e) Why does a cat, when she enters a room, look first on one side, and then on the other?
- (f) Why does a hunter close only one eye when he takes aim with his rifle?
- (g) What makes a man bald-headed?
- (h) What do you call a man who doesn't have all his fingers on one hand?

### 34. GIVE AND TAKE

#### A. Drop this B's—Ness

You are given two sets of clues below; the first refers to a word beginning with the letter B; the second describes a new word, made by taking away the B from the first word. The answer to the first set is B EAR. Find the others.

- |                 |   |                       |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
| (a) to carry    | & | a sense organ         |
| (b) seaside     | & | every individual      |
| (c) bare        | & | a dripping hose       |
| (d) fire        | & | idling                |
| (e) loud report | & | the end               |
| (f) mix well    | & | give away for a while |
| (g) solid piece | & | keep under guard      |
| (h) accusation  | & | crippled              |
| (i) purchased   | & | obligation            |

#### B. Word Change

There are many words that become new words if you add just one letter to them. Here are sentences with two clues. By inserting 'T' between the first and second letters of the answers; which are single words, you will get the solution to the second clue. The first set of answers, for example, is SALE-STALE.

- (a) If you put it to sell, it loses its freshness.
- (b) On the sea-shore you remain upright and still.
- (c) If you are unwell, hold something to support you.
- (d) The wash-basin has a dirty smell.
- (e) Since you have something to narrate, you must remain.
- (f) In spite of it being under your feet, a thief took it.
- (g) You may store it in a jute-bag or on the shelf.
- (h) Close it securely lest some thief take it away.
- (i) On the window it remains motionless.
- (j) Your sigh can cover the map of the world.

#### C. Knock Out

You are given two clues, each leading to two single words. If you knock off the first letter of the word that answers the first clue, you will get the answer to the second clue. For example: A seed of wheat water from the clouds: GRAIN.

- (a) long narrow piece—to stumble
- (b) weak—parallel bars of fence
- (c) art and science of food—art and science of stars
- (d) a surprise attack—give help
- (e) change over—sorceress
- (f) make fun of—freedom from work
- (g) garden beauty—to bring down
- (h) sudden burst of light—a whip
- (i) animal prison—to grow old
- (j) complete turn of a wheel—developing process

#### D. Driver turns Diver

Following are two lists of clues; by taking away the second letter of the word that answers the first clue you will get the answer to the second clue. The title above answers the first set.

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) chauffer             | person who plunges into a pool |
| (b) wheat power          | quarter                        |
| (c) fat belly            | hard hit with fist             |
| (d) a fine piece of soap | not genuine                    |
| (e) stout                | force out                      |
| (f) light meal           | rough container                |
| (g) sea vessel           | drink slowly                   |
| (h) flies in the air     | a piece of land                |
| (i) snatch               | chatter                        |
| (j) independent          | a small payment                |

#### E. There to Here

The first half of each of the sentences below gives you a clue to a word beginning with *T*; the second half gives you a clue to a word which contains all the letters of the first word, in the same order, but with the initial *T* left out. The solution to the first sentence is TAIL—AIL. How quickly can you solve the rest?

- (a) This belongs to an animal, but it is ill.
- (b) Animals drink out of it, then act violent.
- (c) A professor does this, but so can every individual.
- (d) This is a delicately fine paper, which becomes a question for discussion.
- (e) Take this in confidence: old iron has a reddish brown coating.
- (f) This man goes places since he belongs to us.
- (g) Don't make a remark that hurts, especially to your father's sister.

#### F. Bake a Cake

You are required to find two words from the clues given. The answer to the second clue will have all the letters of the first answer except *one* letter which will be changed to form the new word. For example, what was cooked in the oven, can be had for tea. The answer: Bake-cake. Do the following.

- (a) By changing one letter from a three-letter word you realize that when you bring tears to the eyes you must also wipe them away.
- (b) By changing one letter from a four-letter word you find that what was swimming free in the oceans is now part of your meal.
- (c) By changing one letter in a five-letter word you see that what the cook prepared in a hurry, can now be relished in small quantities.

- (d) By changing one letter in a six-letter word, what has gone by, is now held firm by gum.
- (e) By interchanging the order of the last two letters of a five-letter word, what was to a certain extent ...suddenly becomes still.
- (f) If you go to examine carefully—a five-letter word—you will find a part of your face.

### 35. LIMERICKS

There was a young person from Perth  
Who was born on the day of his birth.

He was married, they say,  
On his wife's wedding day,  
And died when he quitted the earth.

There's a clever old miser who tries  
Every method to e-con-omize.

He said with a wink,  
"I save gallons of ink  
By simply not dotting my i's."

As a beauty I'm not a great star;  
Others are handsomer far;  
But my face—I don't mind it,  
Because I'm behind it;  
It's the folks out in front that I jar.

### 36. TONGUE TANGLERS

#### A. A Fishy Affair

Fanny Finch fried five floundering fish for Francis Fowler's father.

What will you have? Fried fresh fish? Fish fresh fried?  
Fresh fried fish? Fresh fish fried? Or, fish fresh fried?

Fish Sauce Shop!

Flesh of freshly fried flying fish.

#### B. Eating

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.  
Did Peter piper pick a peck of pickled peppers?  
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers?  
where is the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper pickel?

Three gray geese in the green grass grazing;  
Gray were the geese and green was the grazing.

#### C. Drinking

If you stick a stock of liquor in your locker,  
It is slick to stick a lock upon your stock,  
Or some joker who is slicker's going to  
trick you of your liquor...  
If you fail to lock your liquor with a lock.

### 37. THE MISSING LETTER

- A. All the words below will change their meanings completely if you add or insert just one extra letter in each of them. You must add the same letter in all the words of one set. Each set has a different letter.

For example, to the words *fun*, *in*, *evil*, insert 'd' and you get *fund*, *din*, *devil*. Find the two letters (one each) for the following sets.

- (a) fight, pear, ream, kin, pet, oft, air, sang, pate, sink, sip, sow, spit, cock, vie, ease  
 (b) dead, eve, cave, fame, stove, hash, fail, done, stain, bawl, pot, death, faction, fee, cow, dove, gay, gave
- B. Add just one letter in any place to each of the following words to bring out the meaning indicated in the clue.

Clue	Word
(a) Grand display at a public event	pop
(b) Empty, with nothing written on it	bank
(c) Inner surface of the hands	pals
(d) To be highly impressed	stuck
(e) The reason for something happening	case
(f) Run a short distance at full speed	print
(g) Use curses and bad language	wear

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| (h) To continue living; alive          | exit  |
| (i) A series of lectures on a subject  | curse |
| (j) substances like iron, gold, brass  | meals |
| (k) intestines                         | bowl  |
| (l) a friendly conversation            | cat   |
| (m) break to pieces using force        | sash  |
| (n) quick, fast                        | sift  |
| (o) Serious; hole for burying the dead | gave  |

- C. Insert a different letter in each of the following sets of words.

- (a) row, are, louse, lower, less, each, alm, eagle, east, lack, lend, lot, ore  
 (b) bun, see, now, sin, not, plan, tan  
 (c) mid, idea, mode, kin, back, draw, cow  
 (d) wig, witch, ten, stun, seal, star, even

### 38. TONGUE FUN

One day Esau Wood saw a saw saw wood as no other wood-saw Wood saw would saw wood. In fact, of all the wood-saws Wood saw saw wood, Wood never saw a wood-saw that would saw wood as the wood-saw Wood saw saw wood, would saw wood. And I never saw a wood-saw that would saw as the wood-saw Wood saw would saw, until I saw Esau Wood saw wood with the wood-saw Wood saw saw wood.

### 39. ELIMINATIONS

Remove a certain number of letters from each word, as indicated below, so that the remaining letters will form a new word, without changing their order. The answer to the first clue is LONE. Do the rest.

- (a) Cut off five letters from TELEPHONE, so that you remain all by yourself.
- (b) Remove three letters from LIBRARY, to find the borrower who told lies.
- (c) Remove two letters from THEATRE, to discover that the actors are not here.
- (d) Remove three letters from CHURCH, to keep the dog away.
- (e) Remove five letters from PRIVATELY, to see what a bald man cannot hide.
- (f) Remove five letters from DESIRABLE, to know you're in great need.
- (g) Remove three letters from DEVELOP, to see how low you can go.
- (h) Remove two letters from BREAST, to excel.
- (i) Remove six letters from DIRECTION, to produce a loud, confused noise.
- (j) Remove four letters from OBSERVE, to obtain a mineral.
- (k) Remove seven letters from BEFOREHAND, to have the latest in fashion.

### 40. WORD CONES

You are provided with the top layers of "wood-cones". You must fill them. Every layer, from top to bottom, should consist of complete words, consisting of letters rearranged from the previous word, with one letter dropped every time.

*Example*

TAIL  
LIT  
IT  
I

(a) R E L A T E

— — — — —  
— — — — —  
— — — —  
— — —  
—

(b) F R I E N D

— — — — —  
— — — — —  
— — — —  
— — —  
— —  
—

(c) S T A P L E

(d) T A I L O R

(e) M O D E S T

(f) M I N U T E

(g) R O U N D

(h) K N I F E D

(i) G E N E R A L

## 41. LIMERICAL TWISTS

A tutor who taught on the flute  
 Tried to teach two young tooters to toot.  
 Said the two to the tutor,  
 "Is it harder to toot, or  
 To tutor two tooters to toot?"

A fly and a flea in a flue  
 Were imprisoned, so what could they do?  
 Said the fly, "Let us flee!"  
 "Let us fly!" said the flea.  
 So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

There was a young fellow named Fisher,  
 Who was fishing for fish in a fissure,  
 When a cod with a grin  
 Pulled the fisherman in...  
 Now they're fishing the fissure for Fisher.

There was a young lady for Wooster  
 Who ussessed to crow like a rooster.  
 She ussessed to climb  
 Seven trees at a time—  
 But her sister ussessed to booster.

A very polite man named Hawarden  
 Went out to plant flowers in his gawarden.  
 If he trod on a slug,  
 A worm or a bug,  
 He would instantly say, "I beg pawarden."

## 42. THE REBUS

The Rebus is a form of pictograph, picture or sounds representing objects, or suggesting the syllables of words.

Observe this: E S D 1 4 U 2 C

It reads: He is the one for you to see

A Rebus is often presented in the shape of a puzzle, an enigma. Sounds and letters and words are placed in such a position as to give a special or tricky meaning.

stand take 2 takings

I U throw my

When worked out, it means:

I understand you undertake to  
 overthrow my undertakings.

Can you decipher these?

(a) 4 U D N-D-N T S X-L-N

(b) B

defects neighbours enmity relations defects



- (c) What message do you read into this rebus?

I am  
a man  
I rate you  
a beast  
You know me

- (d) What did the disciple say to his holy guru?

U R D-Y-N; I C U R N X-T-C-

- (e) That disciple was certainly N-V-S of his master!

- (f) N-E-1, U C, K-N B N-V-S N J.

- (g) O N A L L E

- (h) R U 2 B-C? Y R'N U N D Q?

- (i) M E  
A L

- (j) If you have knowledge and experience enough you will be able to get the message behind this rebus. It must be broken up into four verses, with the alternating verses rhyming.

YYURYYUBICURYY4me

- (k) Musical Rebus

On a musical score the pitch of the musical notes are indicated by the letters of the alphabet and terms such as *sharp*, *natural*, *flat*, *minor*, *major*... By using these terms, with the letters, A, B, or C, can you guess the solutions to the following clues? The answer to the first one is *A Sharp Major*.

- (a) What musical key makes a good army officer?  
(b) What is the key-note of good manners?  
(c) What musical key cannot vote?  
(d) Why are busy lanes like music?  
(e) What is the best musical motto?

#### 43. LETTERS PATTERN

Using *all* the letters of the alphabet—each letter only once—form patterns of words. Here are some examples.

J		M
Q U A R T Z		Q J O V E
P	D	U B
F I X	W	P L I G H T S
N	Z	A N Y C
G	R	X K
H L	F	
B E V Y		
W		
S M O C K		
D		

It may help if you use squared paper to work out your patterns. However, the task is not at all easy!

#### 44. PALINDROMES

The palindrome is a word, sentence or paragraph that reads the same backwards as forwards: POP LEVEL DEED REFER. Our first parents in the Garden of Eden must have introduced themselves in palindromic fashion:

“Madam, I’m Adam.”  
“Eve”.

If you are creative enough, you may be able to prepare a short dialogue that will read the same backwards as forwards. Here is an example. It is a dialogue between two owls; it is a palindrome of letters-not words:

“Too hot to hoot.”  
“Too hot to woo.”  
“Too wot?”  
“Too hot to hoot.”  
“To woo.”  
“Too wot?”  
“To hoot!”  
“Too hot to hoot.”

The letters of each of the words below are jumbled. Rearrange them to form palindromic words.

VIICC EEDD FODEDEI WEDED KEE WEE  
YEE AGG ONNO PEPE OPP PPU DRAAR

DEDERR DRIVERIDE FREER PERREAP  
RIVEREV TOORR AGSAS SESE EXSES  
EXSES HASSH SLOOS ETENT OTT

Palindromes of words are easier to create than palindromes of letters, and more likely to make sense. Here are some specimens:

So patient a doctor to doctor a patient so.

Girl, bathing on bikini, eyeing boy, finds boy eyeing bikini on bathing girl.

You can cage a swallow, can’t you, but you can’t swallow a cage, can you?

Bores are people that say that people are bores.

God knows man. What is doubtful is what man knows God.

Women understand men; few men understand women.

Here is a palindromic *verse*. It does not use the letter of the word but the entire unit.

As I was passing near the jail  
I met a man, but hurried by.  
His face was ghastly, grimly pale.  
He had a gun. I wondered why  
He had. A gun? I wondered... why,  
His face was *ghastly!* Grimly pale,  
I met a man, but hurried by,  
As I was passing near the jail.

## 45. WORD MIRRORS

Palindromes, we have seen, are words that read the same backwards as forwards, without any change in the meaning. We have other words in English, which can be read backwards to form new words:

tap-pat; reed-deer; drawer-reward.

In each of the following sentences the two missing words are the reverse of each other. Can you fill the blanks?

- (a) He came in ..... to see the machines ..... heat.
- (b) She managed to fasten the string to the ..... with a few .....
- (c) In some ..... of India mothers ..... their babies onto their backs.
- (d) When the ..... burst, the waters rushed like ..... down the hill.
- (e) The cook placed the ..... on the ..... of the shelf.
- (f) The fisherman managed to catch ..... fish in his .....
- (g) To ..... a good life, keep away from .....
- (h) Only a ..... of the rat's tail was caught in the .....
- (i) Since there was ..... in the ..... he could not pour any drink into it.
- (j) The patient in the ..... failed to ..... the attention of the nurse.

## 46. SYNONYMS

A. A synonym is a word that is similar in meaning to another word. **Examples:** listen-hear; hurry-rush. In each of the following groups, pick out the word that is most nearly the synonym of the main word.

- (a) **cluster:** brightness, stars, clutter, group
- (b) **rectify:** make-small, radio, televise, make-right
- (c) **skeptical:** wet, cynical, doubting, hinting
- (d) **concede:** self-centred, selfish, yield, comfort
- (e) **facilitate:** make-easy, develop, plan, make-difficult
- (f) **apparel:** reading-matter, clothing, manners, point of view
- (g) **absurd:** eminent, doleful, preposterous, adherent

B. Each of the words in the first list describe a manner of walking. The second list contains their meanings, but not in the proper order, so rearrange it accordingly.

- |                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| (a) amble      | (a) move away from a person shyly    |
| (b) jaywalking | (b) walk with slow steps, ducklike   |
| (c) march      | (c) walk in a leisurely manner       |
| (d) saunter    | (d) walk across a street carelessly  |
| (e) sidle      | (e) a short run                      |
| (f) sprint     | (f) slow, gentle pace                |
| (g) stroll     | (g) walk with regular measured steps |
| (h) waddle     | (h) quiet, unhurried walk            |

### C. A Headfull of Synonyms

The sets below contain six columns of four-letter words with the initial letters missing. In finding the letters make sure that they not only complete the given words but also form a new word when read across. More, this new word must be a synonym (have a similar meaning) of the clue provided. For each set you must find two or three such synonyms, as indicated. For example, in the first set, one synonym of 'maintain' is assert.

- (a)    ---    ---    ---    ---    ---    ---    (3 Words)  
          R    A    A    T    A    I  
          K    M    K    C    N    N  
          S    E    E    H    G    T    *maintain*
- (b)    ---    ---    ---    ---    ---    ---    (2 Words)  
          I    A    A    O    U    A  
          L    S    M    N    M    R  
          L    T    E    S    P    N    *meek*
- (c)    ---    ---    ---    ---    ---    ---    (2 Words)  
          O    A    R    A    I    T  
          L    M    I    P    L    E  
          D    E    S    E    T    P    *adheres*
- (d)    ---    ---    ---    ---    ---    ---    (2 Words)  
          I    V    I    A    G    A  
          T    E    C    I    G    K  
          E    N    E    L    S    E    *nucleus*

### D. A Gourmet's Delight

There are various ways in which we take food into the mouth and work on it with our teeth before sending it down the gullet. There are many synonyms of the word 'eat', specific to the different movements of the mouth. They are: to gobble, to crunch, to nibble, to peck, to chew, to gnaw, to bolt, to gorge, to bite, to munch, to masticate. Choose the word that best fits each description below.



- (a) To cut or take hold of with teeth.  
 (b) To swallow food quickly without chewing it.  
 (c) To grind between the teeth before swallowing.  
 (d) To reduce to pulp by chewing.  
 (e) To bite something crisp and make a noise in doing so.  
 (f) To eat much by biting, like a rat.  
 (g) To eat fast and greedily.  
 (h) To eat with much movement of the jaws, like cattle.  
 (i) To eat with very small bites.  
 (j) To eat in small quantities, bit by bit, like a bird.

## E. Damaging Words

In the first list you will find synonyms of the word BREAK.

In the second list are the nouns to which they can best be applied. Can you pair them correctly?

- |                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| (a) burst      | (a) concrete structures       |
| (b) fracture   | (b) an egg                    |
| (c) disrupt    | (c) the smoke                 |
| (d) dislocate  | (d) glass panes               |
| (e) smash      | (e) a blood vessel            |
| (f) disturb    | (f) something placed in order |
| (g) shatter    | (g) your shoulder bone        |
| (h) disarrange | (h) your head                 |
| (i) disperse   | (i) your train of thought     |
| (j) demolish   | (j) the peace                 |

## 47. TIT FOR TAT

Loud brayed an ass. Quote Kate, "My dear,  
(To spouse with scornful carriage)

One of your relatives I hear."

"Yes, love," said he, "by marriage."

When Pontius wished an edict might be passed

That fools should into the sea be cast,

His wife assenting thus replied to him,

"But first, my dear. I'd have you learn to swim."

## 48. MORONIC CONUNDRUMS

A moron, by definition, is a **person** with low intelligence, a stupid person. **Here are some conundrums** describing foolish actions, **and requiring** equally stupid (or witty) answers.

- (a) How many morons would **be needed** to fix an electric bulb on the ceiling?
- (b) Why did the moron cut **his fingers off**?
- (c) Why did the moron throw **his clock** out the window?
- (d) What did the moron do **when he thought he was dying**?
- (e) Why did the moron take **a ladder to school**?
- (f) Why was the moron standing **with bread and a knife** at the traffic crossing?
- (g) Why did the moron tiptoe **past the medicine cup board**?
- (h) Why did the moron sleep **on the chandelier**?
- (i) Why did the moron throw **all the nails away**?
- (j) Why did the moron sit **on top of the house**?

The little moron wrote himself **a letter** and when asked what it said, replied, "I don't know; I won't get it until tomorrow."

The little moron was **waiting for a phone call** and couldn't wait any longer; **so he took the receiver off the hook** and left a note.

The little moron wrote **letters to his pen pal** very slowly. He said she couldn't **read very fast**.

## 49. JEKYLL AND HYDE WORDS

A. Depending on their context, some words change their meanings, even turn them inside out. If you say you are *imposing*, for instance, you may mean either that you are impressive or that you are taking unfair advantage of someone. In the following words, one meaning is given. Find the other.

- (a) **stem:** to block
- (b) **cleave:** to split in two
- (c) **fast:** quick
- (d) **overlook:** to neglect
- (e) **mean:** poor appearance

B. The clues below contain two meanings of a single word. Find the word. The answer to the first one is FIRE.

- (a) flame / shoot
- (b) permit / rent
- (c) committee / plant
- (d) hit / impress
- (e) very quick / firmly fixed
- (f) exact reproduction / cheating in exams
- (g) difficult / firm
- (h) diagonal / prejudice
- (i) similar / enjoy
- (j) undertaking / flash onto screen
- (k) malicious / midway between extremes

## 50. PLEONASTICS

Pleonasm means redundancy, or, using more words than are necessary to give the sense or express an idea, like when you talk of a *free* gift, or hearing *with your ears*. Half the number of words would have sufficed to make the meaning doubly clear! Here are some pleonasms with witty comments in brackets. Can you pick out the unnecessary words in each sentence?

"IT WAS MINUS TWENTY DEGREES BELOW ZERO." (Minus plus minus makes plus?)

"HE GAINED FOURTEEN POUNDS IN WEIGHT." (Not in height or British currency?)

"MENTALLY INSANE." (How else?)

"HE MADE TWENTY IN A ROW WITHOUT A MISS." (What's the other kind of row?)

"A NEW INNOVATION." (Quite old fashioned!)

"PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN." (Just wait for future predictions.)

"A QUICK MINUTE." (You mean a sub-60 second minute?)

"LAST AND FINAL CURTAIN CALL." (You sound like the Indian Airlines.)

"AN UNEXPECTED SURPRISE." (Certainly better than a welcomed shock)

"TO SUCCESSFULLY PASS AN EXAMINATION." (Worth copying this one!)

"ORBITED AROUND."

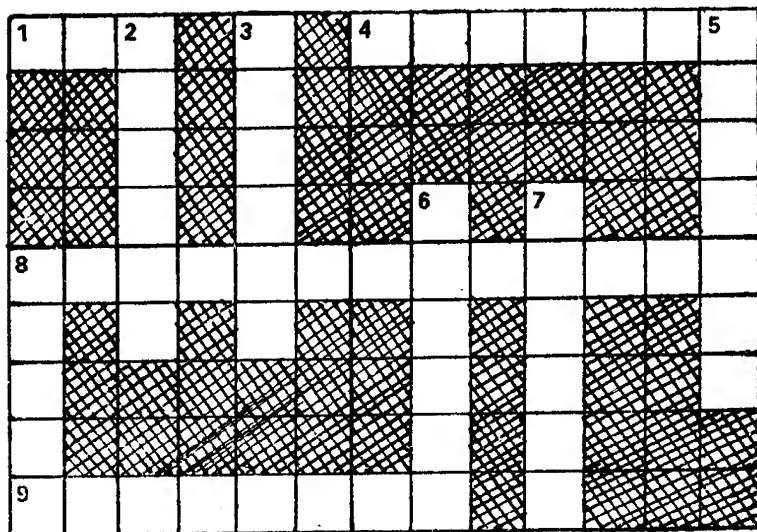
(O.K., drop around any time!)

"A FOOT PEDAL."

(I prefer the hand handles!)

### 51. IN CIRCLES

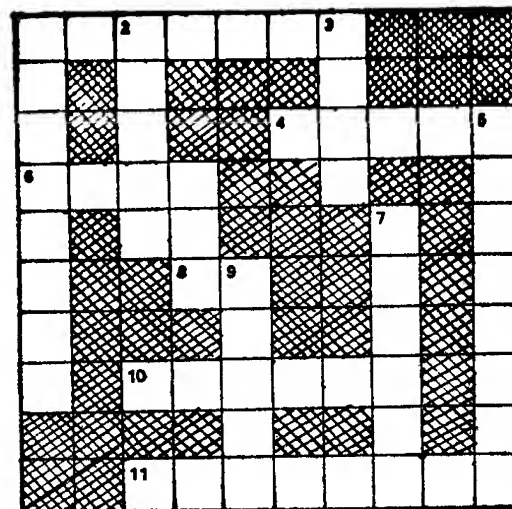
There are no clues given to this crossword puzzle, but all the words define the different parts of a circle. No. 8, for example, is the line running all the way round the circle.



### 52. CRISS-CROSS

Clues Across

1. To haggle
4. Artificial waterway
6. Not on time
8. To express surprise
10. A short training period
11. What Yogis teach you to do



Clues Down

1. Concrete structure
2. The road to be taken
3. Close by your side
5. A medium of communication
7. A dream-world of film-stars
9. A Hunting Dog

### 53. FUNNY LANGUAGE

We'll begin with box, and the plural is boxes.  
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes;  
Then, one fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of mouse should never be meese!

You may find a lone mouse or a whole set of mice  
But the plural of house is houses, not hice.  
If the plural of man is always called men,  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I speak of a foot and you show me your feet,  
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?  
If one is a tooth, and a whole set are teeth,  
Why should not the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then, one may be that, and three may be those,  
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose;  
And the plural of cat is cats and not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
But though we say mother, we never say methren.  
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
But imagine the feminine—she, shis, shim!

So English, I fancy, you all will agree,  
Is the funniest language you ever did see.

### 54. ONE AND ONLY

Notice how, by shifting the position of the word ONLY in a statement, you can give several meanings to it. Match each sentence with the meanings given below.

- (a) ONLY the clown gave the bear the ball.
- (b) The ONLY clown gave the bear the ball.
- (c) The clown ONLY gave the bear the ball.
- (d) The clown gave ONLY the bear the ball.
- (e) The clown gave the ONLY bear the ball.
- (f) The clown gave the bear ONLY the ball.
- (g) The clown gave the bear the ONLY ball.

#### Meanings

- (a) The clown gave the bear nothing except the ball.
- (b) There was just one clown who gave the bear the ball.
- (c) There was just one ball which the clown gave the bear.
- (d) Nobody else except the clown gave the bear the ball.
- (e) The clown gave the ball to no one other than the bear.
- (f) There was just one bear to whom the clown gave the ball.
- (g) The clown did nothing else but give the bear the ball.

### 55. ONCE MORE, PLEASE!

He said, "What was that you said I said she said?" he said.

I said, "Who said you said she said?" I said.

He said, "You said I said she said," he said.

I said, "I said you said she said I said 'What?' " I said.

**What did she say?**



## 56. SHADES OF MEANING

A. Point out the difference in meaning between:

- (a) an airship and an aeroplane
- (b) a gun and a rifle
- (c) commerce and industry
- (d) a star and a planet
- (e) a clock and a watch
- (f) atmosphere and environment
- (g) a roof and a ceiling
- (h) a floor and a storey
- (i) contemporaneous, simultaneous and concurrent

B. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN...

- (a) SAME and SIMILAR
- (b) NEVER and NOT
- (c) ALONE and LONELY
- (d) HEAR and LISTEN
- (e) DISCOVERY and INVENTION
- (f) HINDER and PREVENT
- (g) ERROR and FAULT
- (h) CHILDISH and CHILDLIKE
- (i) HABIT and CUSTOM
- (j) CENTRE and MIDDLE

## 57. PUNNY RIB TICKLERS

Keep your spirits up by pouring spirits down.

Sign at a bank: Every summer we get loanly.

Aside: He's one of those guys who looks down on those above him.

Her idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.

When asked to start a garden, the first thing that many people dig up is an excuse.

How's business?

Tailor: Just sew-sew.

Doctor: Getting better.

Archeologist: in ruins.

Electrician: pretty light.

Teacher: What is a conductor of electricity?

Dull boy: Why....er...

Teacher: What is the unit of electric power?

Dull boy: The what, sir?

Teacher: What is the unit of resistance?

Dull boy: Oh...um...

Teacher: Well done! You've got all right.

Customer: "Do you serve frogs here?"

Waitress: "Yes, sir, sit down, we serve anybody."

Sign over a garbage dump: "Always at your disposal."

## 58. MISHAPS

- (a) There was once a man from Lynn  
Who was known to be exceedingly thin;  
One day he essayed  
To drink lemonade,  
And slipped through the straw and fell in.
- (b) There was a young man of Bombay,  
Making firecrackers on Diwali day.  
He dropped his cigar  
In a gunpowder jar...  
There was a young man of Bombay:
- (c) Said a foolish householder of Wales  
"An odour of coal-gas prevails."  
She then struck a light,  
And later that night  
Was collected in seventeen pails.
- (d) There was a young fellow named Weir,  
Who hadn't an atom of fear;  
He indulged a desire  
To touch a live wire...  
— Most any last line will do here.
- (e) A cat in despondency sighed  
And resolved to commit suicide;  
She passed under the wheels  
Of eight automobiles  
And after the ninth one she died.

## 59. AT THE ZOO

- A. There are specific words used to describe the sounds made by creatures other than man. What would you call the sounds made by the following:
- |           |              |           |             |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| (a) horse | (b) owl      | (c) hen   | (d) lamb    |
| (e) seal  | (f) turkey   | (g) snake | (h) dove    |
| (i) hyena | (j) bear     | (k) raven | (l) penguin |
| (m) mouse | (n) squirrel |           |             |
- B. State what each of the young creatures below will grow up into. The first one is CAT.
- (a) a kitten (b) a foal (c) a fawn (d) a cygnet  
(e) a nestling (f) a gosling (g) a tadpole (h) a leveret
- C. Give the male-form of the following:
- |           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| (a) goose | (b) cow   | (c) doe  |
| (d) duck  | (e) sow   | (f) ewe  |
| (g) mare  | (h) vixen | (i) hind |
- D. Can you place the following into the several categories indicated below?
- |                |                   |                |                |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>beetles</i> | <i>eagles</i>     | <i>giraffs</i> | <i>lizards</i> |
| <i>mice</i>    | <i>mosquitoes</i> | <i>rabbits</i> | <i>snakes</i>  |
| <i>swans</i>   | <i>tortoises</i>  | <i>wasps</i>   | <i>owls</i>    |
- (a) Insects (b) Reptiles (c) Rodents (d) Stingers  
(e) Long necks (f) Mammals (g) Long tails

## 60. RIGHT EXPRESSIONS

In the following sentences cross out one of the words in *italics* which is wrongly used.

- (a) The leaders managed to walk *farther further* than the others.
- (b) The other day one of my professors gave me a *contemptible contemptuous* look.
- (c) Don't take that course; it has *fewer less* sessions than this one.
- (d) The gangsters *aggravated irritated* the judge by giggling.

## 61. ANTONYMS

An antonym is a word that is opposite in meaning to another word. Find one antonym for each of the following words from the choices given.

- (a) **amateur:** professional, veteran, beginner, unpaid actor
- (b) **drench:** wet, read, dry, twist
- (c) **blur:** close, dim, open, clarify
- (d) **abruptly:** gradually, quickly, suddenly, noticeably
- (e) **economy:** waste, thrift, noise, poverty

## 62. LOGIC FROLIC

If the following statements are true...

ALL	NONE	SOME
BULLS	OF MY	OF MY
HAVE	UNCLES	UNCLES
BIG	IS A	DRINK
EYES	BULL	TEA

...then which of the statements given below

- (a) *must* be true (A, B, or C)
- (b) *might* be true (A, B, or C)
- (c) *cannot* be true (A, B, or C)

A	B	C
NONE OF MY UNCLES HAS BIG EYES	BULLS WHO DRINK TEA ARE UNCLES OF MINE	SOME TEA DRINKERS ARE NOT MY UNCLES

### 63. SENSIBLE MARKS

Punctuation marks are often necessary for clarity. The following sentence, "King Charles walked and talked half an hour after his head was cut off," Sounds absurd, doesn't it? Now notice the difference: "King Charles walked and talked; half an hour after, his head was cut off." That's understandable! Put the proper marks so that the following make sense.

- (a) Every lady in this land  
Has twenty nails upon each hand  
Five and twenty on hands and feet  
All this is true without deceit
- (b) That that is is that that is not is not is not that it is
- (c) It was and I said not are and and and are are different
- (d) Through changes in punctuation, you can give opposite meanings to the following verses, pessimistic and optimistic.

That deep red rose I see  
Its thorn I just ignore  
The scent that's borne to me  
It's nothing I deplore

Those scratches that I got  
Before i just complain  
About the pain a lot  
I think of beauty's gain.

### 64. THE RIGHT STRESSES

There are several words in English which are spelt the same but can be used either as nouns or as verbs. Of course, both their meaning and pronunciation (syllable stress) change accordingly. The noun takes the stress on the first syllable, the verb on the second. Fill in the following blanks with such words. The answer to the first sentence is: *conduct...conduct*.

- (a) They had asked the games-master not to ..... the tournament, since his ..... was unsatisfactory.
- (b) The students decided that the best way to keep a ..... of the facts was to ..... the whole speech.
- (c) The apparatus was well adjusted; just one ..... drop of the chemical kept falling every .....
- (d) Each of the guests ..... at the party was called to ..... a small item.
- (e) The servant will not ..... to carry the ..... from the garbage-can and burn it.
- ( ) The ..... in itself is not worth the price; so I ..... to any payment of cash.
- (g) In the month of ..... I had met a very ..... person.
- (h) The usher met us at the ..... and showed us to our seats; we were ..... (d) with the music.
- (i) The variety of ..... a student has to deal with often ..... him to annoyance.

## 65. DOGGERELS

For every evil under the sun  
There is a remedy, or there is none;  
If there is a remedy, find it.  
If there isn't, never mind it.

★ ★ ★

The more we study, the more we know.  
The more we know, the more we forget  
The more we forget, the less we know.  
The less we know, the less we forget.  
The less we forget, the more we know.  
So why study?

★ ★ ★

If you wish in this world to advance  
Your merits you're bound to enhance,  
You must stir it and stump it  
And blow your own trumpet  
Or, trust me, you haven't a chance!

★ ★ ★

Exceptions prove the rule? They do;  
But no exceptions prove it too;  
Though maids have oft held men in thrall,  
Your rule o'er me's exceptional.  
There's no exception to the rule  
Of you, the queen, o'er me, the fool.  
Yet I the rule's exception prove:  
You cannot rule, except I love.

★ ★ ★

## 66. SPELLINGS

A. In the following sets only one word is spelled correctly. Find it.

- (a) asurance, assurance, assurance
- (b) moustache, mustache, mousetash
- (c) stimullus, stimulus, stimulus
- (d) business, buisness, buisness
- (e) curiosity, curiosity, curriosity
- (f) independance, independence, indepanance
- (g) familliar, familiar, fammiliar
- (h) categories, catagories, cattagories
- (i) immediately, imediately, immediatly
- (j) garrage, garage, garrege
- (k) gentleman, gentelman, gentelman
- (l) professor, professor, proffessor
- (m) occurred, occured, ocurred
- (n) preference, preferance, preference
- (o) management, managment, manegement

B. Complete the following words by adding *ei* or *ie*.

- |                 |                |                |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| (a) d..gn       | (b) aud..nce   | (c) soc..ty    |
| (d) spontan..ty | (e) v..ws      | (f) fr..nd     |
| (g) bel..ve     | (h) h..ghtened | (i) cl..nt     |
| (j) anc..nt     | (k) s..zed     | (l) con..vable |
| (m) p..ce       | (n) ach..ve    | (o) med..val   |
| (p) effic..ncy  | (q) th..f      | (r) pat..nt    |
| (s) r..gn       | (t) suffic..nt | (u) rec..ve    |

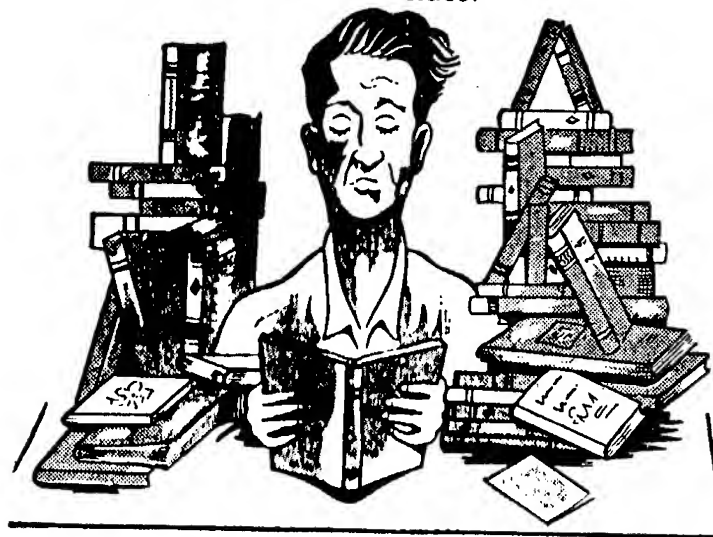
## 67. PREPOSITIONAL POWER

By adding prepositions you can change the meanings of a given word. We have listed below the words *FALL* and *GO* with several prepositional combinations. Can you find their meanings from the next list?

- A.**
- |                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) fall among   | (a) fail; come to nothing   |
| (b) fall away    | (b) be classifiable         |
| (c) fall behind  | (c) get mixed up with       |
| (d) fall for     | (d) desert                  |
| (e) fall off     | (e) fail to keep level with |
| (f) fall through | (f) be attracted to         |
| (g) fall under   | (g) become smaller, fewer   |
| (h) fall out     | (h) agree to; meet          |
| (i) fall in with | (i) discontinue, give up    |
- B.**
- |                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) go about   | (a) exceed                     |
| (b) go after   | (b) explode/become unconscious |
| (c) go against | (c) proceed/accompany          |
| (d) go along   | (d) inspect/look at            |
| (e) go at      | (e) pay visits/set to work at  |
| (f) go beyond  | (f) rush at/attack             |
| (g) go by      | (g) oppose/be contrary to      |
| (h) go into    | (h) try to win/to obtain       |
| (i) go off     | (i) enter/join                 |
| (j) go over    | (j) pass/be called             |

## 68. LITERATE IGNORAMUS

Alexander Pope termed the person who reads much without assimilating the matter as a 'literate ignoramus' (ignorant person). Find single-word answers to the clues below, using only the letters in the phrase *LITERATE IGNORAMUS*. No other letters are permitted; and no letter must be used more than once. The words in *italics> are the main clues.*



- (a) The wise man's *area* of knowledge is wide.
- (b) You will *profit* a great deal if you study systematically.
- (c) Study techniques help *develop* the mind to think efficiently.
- (d) To get *complete hold* of a subject takes time and effort.

- (e) We cannot *refuse to take notice* even of details
- (f) The habit of *learning by heart* should be overcome
- (g) Success will bring a *happy expression* on the face

## 69. CHILD'S PLAY

Using only the letter in the phrase **S A M E C H I L D**, you must find *six-letter* words that fit each of the definitions below. No other letters are allowed; and no letter must be used more than once. The answer to the first one is **CAMELS**

- (a) the ships of the desert
- (b) found in a carpenter's workshop
- (c) melancholic, gloomy
- (d) what the tuned set of bells did
- (e) desire to harm others; active hatred
- (f) sent by post
- (g) to protect someone from suffering
- (h) a dish of crushed potatoes
- (i) cut into thin flat pieces
- (j) rather cold or unfriendly
- (k) followed or pursued
- (l) pale, looking ill
- (m) converted into money
- (n) demands on legal grounds
- (o) small metal discs as reward

## 70. CREATIVE VOCABULARY

The popular Nursery Rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb" was re-created by A.R. Eckler six times. Below we have two of these:

### The original verse

Mary had a little lamb,  
 Its fleece was white as snow,  
 And everywhere that Mary went  
 The lamb was sure to go;  
 He followed her to school one day,  
 That was against the rule;  
 It made the children laugh and play  
 To see a lamb in school.

### The verse without e

Mary had a tiny lamb,  
 Its wool was pallid as snow,  
 And any spot that Mary did walk  
 This lamb would always go;  
 This lamb did follow Mary to school,  
 Although against a law;  
 How girls and boys did laugh and play,  
 That lamb in class all saw.

### The verse without h

Mary owned a little lamb,  
 Its fleece was pale as snow,  
 And every place its mistress went  
 It certainly would go;  
 It followed Mary to class one day  
 It broke a rigid law;  
 It made some students giggle aloud,  
 A lamb in class all saw.

Try re-creating these **verses**, omitting the letters *a, s, t, ...* each time.

## 71. RELATIVELY SPEAKING

There was a young lady named Bright  
Whose speed was far faster than light.

She went out one day  
In a relative way  
And returned on the previous night.

There was a young man from Trevizes  
Whose ears were of different sizes;  
The left one was small,  
And of no use of all;  
With the right one he won several prizes.

## 72. CELLAR AND SHALE

Mr Cellar met Miss Shale on the sea-shore. Cellar owned a fresh-fish-sauce shop, while Miss Shale was a seller of sea-fresh shell-fish. Cellar asked Miss Shale if she could sell her sea-fresh shell-fish to his Fresh-Fish-Sauce Shop shop-assistant while he was away. Miss Shale said she would sell her sea-fresh shell-fish to Cellar's assistant at the Fresh-Fish-Sauce Shop only if Cellar would sell her some fresh-fish-sauce. Cellar could not sell her any fresh-fish-sauce since he had only a little in stock, so Miss Shale, the sea-fresh shell-fish seller refused to sell Cellar any of her sea-fresh shell-fish unless Cellar's Fresh-Fish-Sauce Shop shop-assistant would sell her some of his fresh-fish-sauce.

## 73. DICTIONARY NEEDED?

- A. An overwhelming number of the English words we use are formed from Latin roots. Below are some words derived from the Latin word *ponere* and its past participle *positus* which means *to place, to put, to set*. Can you match the words with their meanings?



- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| (a) <i>posit</i>       | (a) Appropriate, fitting, relevant; "placed toward."           |
| (b) <i>juxtapose</i>   | (b) Explanatory; writing or speaking that sets forth.          |
| (c) <i>deposition</i>  | (c) Place of accumulation, storage; a burial vault, sepulchre. |
| (d) <i>compositor</i>  | (d) Typesetter; "one who places together."                     |
| (e) <i>supposition</i> | (e) Testimony; "set down in writing"; formal statement.        |
| (f) <i>apposite</i>    | (f) To place side by side.                                     |
| (g) <i>opposition</i>  | (g) To set in place; to put down as fact; assume.              |
| (h) <i>repository</i>  | (h) Theory hypothesis; "set under."                            |
| (i) <i>expository</i>  | (i) Resistance; hostility; "placed against."                   |



## B. Psychologically Speaking

Psychology, a wit observed, tells us already what we know about ourselves in language we do not understand. How true is this of you? Match the columns below to find out.

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| (a) <i>neurasthenic</i> | (a) Abnormal self-love, aggrandizement.   |
| (b) <i>paranoia</i>     | (b) One whose interest is so turned in on himself that he rejects others and his environment. |
| (c) <i>rationalize</i>  | (c) One whose chief interest is others and his environment rather than himself.               |
| (d) <i>phobic</i>       | (d) Conflicting feelings, such as love and hate, toward the same person or thing.             |
| (e) <i>compensation</i> | (e) Mental disorder marked by delusions of persecution or of grandeur.                        |
| (f) <i>fixation</i>     | (f) Afflicted with worry, pain, fatigue because of emotional conflicts.                       |
| (g) <i>narcissism</i>   | (g) A painful emotional experience which often produces a lasting, harmful effect.            |
| (h) <i>introvert</i>    | (h) Going back to earlier, less mature behaviour as an escape from a present conflict.        |

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| (i) <i>extrovert</i>   | (i) Pertaining to any irrational or morbid fear.                        |
| (j) <i>ambivalence</i> | (j) An abnormal attachment to some idea, object, person.                |
| (k) <i>regression</i>  | (k) To justify unreasonable behaviour through false reasoning.          |
| (l) <i>trauma</i>      | (l) Making up for an undesirable trait by exaggerating an approved one. |

## C. Technically Speaking

There are two lists below. The first contains some 'technical' terms, and the second contains the activities, work, interests, etc. to which they refer. Can you pair them correctly?

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| (a) carburetor  | electricity  |
| (b) transfusion | dairy        |
| (c) dryer       | furniture    |
| (d) metronome   | photography  |
| (e) lactometer  | surgery      |
| (f) fission     | medicine     |
| (g) offset      | autos        |
| (h) miniature   | music        |
| (i) hypodermic  | hair-washing |
| (j) turbine     | atomic bomb  |
| (k) exposure    | printing     |
| (l) veneer      | painting     |

### D. Talking Shop

When a person *talks shop* it means he is discussing his trade, profession or business, perhaps in a general conversation. Imagine you are at a Seminar organized for professional people, where each one makes a speech. Can you tell which of the following people are *talking shop* and which are not? Also see if you can tell *why*!



- (a) The ophthalmologist spoke about birds.
- (b) The cartographer talked about old cars.
- (c) The orthodontist explained jaw formations.
- (d) The pediatrician discussed diseases of the feet.
- (e) The osteopath lectured on bone manipulation.

- (f) The philatelist bored everyone for over an hour on the subject of stamps.
- (g) The ornithologist talked about dress-making.
- (h) The paleontologist had a lively discussion on fossils.

### E. Identity Search

- (a) Here is a man whose identity is clouded in mystery. His statements are broadcast over the radio at least once every day. Many people await his advice in times of turbulence. He is quoted in the newspapers, but his name never appears. Who is he?
- (b) "If I fell on a felon feloniously, Who's the felon—the felon I fell on, or me?" Who is a 'felon'?

### F. Superficially Speaking

What terms would you use to describe an object that has:

- (a) only one surface?
- (b) only two surfaces?
- (c) only three surfaces?
- (d) only four surfaces?
- (e) only five surfaces?
- (f) only six surfaces?

#### 74. NONSENSE VERSES

Father heard his children scream,  
So he threw them in the stream,  
Saying, as he drowned the third,  
'Children should be seen, not heard.'

★ ★ ★

Billy, in one of his nice new sashes,  
Fell in the fire and was burned to ashes;  
Now although the room grows chilly,  
I haven't the heart to poke poor Billy!

★ ★ ★

Making toast at the fireside,  
Nurse fell in the grate and died;  
And what makes it ten times worse,  
All the toast was burnt with nurse.

★ ★ ★

Baby roused its father's ire  
By a cold and formal lisp.  
So he placed it on the fire  
And reduced it to a crisp.  
Mother said, "Oh, stop a bit!  
This is overdoing it!"

★ ★ ★

Lizzie Borden took an axe  
And gave her mother forty whacks.  
And when she saw what she had done  
She gave her father forty-one.

★ ★ ★

#### 75. PUNNY VERSES

Little Willie from his mirror  
Licked the mercury right off,  
Thinking in his childish error,  
It would cure the whooping cough.

At the funeral his mother  
Smartly said to Mrs Brown:  
'Twas a chilly day for Willie  
When the mercury went down."

#### 76. RIDDLE TIME

- A. The following riddle is based on the 'jumbled-letters' game: only in this case, one big word can be broken up and the letters reshuffled, to form smaller words. The figures indicate the position of the letters which spell new words, in the original six letter words.

This compact Enigma take.  
All apart its letters shake.  
Let your 6, 3, 5 be high,  
Like 5, 1, 2 do or die.  
Who 4, 6, 5, 1 enjoys  
More than 5, 6, 2 by boys?  
While 5, 3, 2, 1 are mine,  
May 4, 6, 3, 2 be thine.  
4, 1, 5 is rich and rare,  
6, 5, 1, 2 ends my prayer.

- B. (a) Which word in this enigma gives away the solution to it?

With both feet crossed sit on a stool  
Then uncross one and find a fool.

- (b) Find the two words, having the same letters but different meanings, from the clues given.

Six letters spell the happy state  
Of two in love made one.  
The same six letters tell the fate  
Of marriage made undone.

- (c) What is it that occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, yet not at all in a week?

- (d) Which four-letter word, written in capitals, will read the same upside down as it does right side up?

- C. The first verse of this poem gives the clue to a six-letter word. There are clues to two other words in the rest of the poem. The first of these words is formed by cutting off the initial letter of the original word; the second, by eliminating the first two letters of the original word. How fast can you find the words?

Touch me not, I'm firm and sure;  
Behead, I'm used by rich and poor;  
In house and cottage, hut and hall,  
I stand of service to them all.  
Behead again, in time of need  
I tell that strength and skill succeed.

#### D. A Puzzled Beast

Here is a riddle, the answer to which is a three-letter word, which gives you the clue to the other three solutions.



A little beast without its head  
Becomes a mighty beast instead;  
But then the subject of my riddle  
Is cut asunder in the middle;  
And nothing this division gains,  
Though unknown quantity remains.

### E. Letters Riddle

- (a) Lancy had it first. Anil had it last: boys never have it; girls have it but once. Miss Kallicharan had it twice in the same place, but when she married Dilip Bose she never had it again. What is it?
- (b) The beginning of eternity,  
The end of time and space,  
The beginning of every end,  
The end of every race.
- (c) What letter is never found in the alphabet?
- (d) Why is the letter A like noon?
- (e) Can you write a sentence which contains the word *had* eleven times in a row?
- (f) Make *just one word* from these letters:  
D-E-J-N-O-O-R-S-T-U-W
- (g) A word there is five syllables contains;  
Take one away—not one of them remains.

### 77. DROP LETTER PUZZLE

The first blank contains the full word. In the subsequent blanks one letter is dropped each time.

My first was of ..... breed  
Their ..... captain, hot and riled,  
To ..... his men found vain indeed,  
They only ..... and smoked and smiled.

### 78. COUPLETS

In the following couplets, the first line gives a clue to the first half of a compound word, and the second line gives a clue to the second half of that word. The numbers in brackets indicate the letters that each word contains. The answer to the first couplet is DREAM-LAND.

- (a) It happens in sleep and in fantasy;  
You're on hard ground, not on the Sea. (5 + 4)
- (b) They're fresh and juicy, grown on trees;  
Cut to bits, your tongue they please. (5 + 5)
- (c) It throws some brightness on our gloom;  
In this you will find a sitting room. (5 + 5)
- (d) You do it with a bat and ball;  
A place where games are held for all. (4 + 6)
- (e) It's very hot, I know you'll say;  
What daddy does when not at play. (4 + 5)
- (f) This certainly is never yours;  
A piece of land found out of doors. (4 + 5)
- (g) It's sweet to eat, made by the bee;  
And this in the night-sky we see. (5 + 4)
- (h) Without a single curve or bend;  
Moving on to a maturer end. (8 + 7)
- (i) A thing not held or fastened tight;  
The farthest part that is in sight. (5 + 7)

## 79. TWISTER TOADS

A tree-toad loved a she toad.  
That lived up in a tree  
She was a three-toed tree toad.  
But a two-toed toad was he.  
The two-toed tree toad tried to win  
The she toad's friendly nod.  
For the two-toed tree toad loved the ground  
That the three-toed tree toad trod.  
But vainly the two-toed tree toad tried,  
He could not please her whim.  
In her tree toad bower, with her V-toed power,  
The she toad vetoed him.

## 80. BREVITY IS THE SOUL OF WIT

A wealthy businessman told his son at school that he was too busy to read long letters and requested him to be brief. The boy replied: "S.O.S., Rs.p., R.S.V.P."

Bernard Shaw one day received an invitation from a celebrity-hunter: "Lady X will be at home Thursday between four and six." The author returned the card: underneath he had written, "Mr Bernard Shaw likewise."

"What is the longest word in English?" SMILES.  
There is a mile between the first and last letters!

## 81. QUICK-WITS

How fast can you jump from word to word in a flight of fancy?

Look at this example:

How is a blotter like a lazy dog?

Answer:

A blotter is an ink-lined plane.  
An inclined plane is a slope up.  
A slow pup is a lazy dog.

Got the idea? Now solve these the same way:

- (a) If you were locked in a room with only a bed and a calendar, how would you survive?
- (b) What relation is a loaf of bread to a locomotive?
- (c) Prove that a baby is not worth two cents.
- (d) Why is *variety* the *spice* of life?
- (e) How can a cow have nine legs?
- (f) Why would you prefer ice-cream to happiness?
- (g) If you were in a closed cell with no doors or windows and only a mirror and a table, how would you get out?

## 82. SILENT LETTERS

When the following words are spoken, at least one letter in each of them is not pronounced. Indicate in the brackets which of the letters is silent.

- |                |     |             |     |              |     |
|----------------|-----|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| (a) answer     | ( ) | (b) bristle | ( ) | (c) business | ( ) |
| (d) lodging    | ( ) | (e) palms   | ( ) | (f) cupboard | ( ) |
| (g) gnarled    | ( ) | (h) honour  | ( ) | (i) parlia-  | ( ) |
| (j) signed     | ( ) | (k) wreck   | ( ) | ment         |     |
| (l) taught     | ( ) | (m) knot    | ( ) | (n) listen   | ( ) |
| (o) psychiatry | ( ) | (p) tongue  | ( ) | (q) height   | ( ) |
| (r) subtle     | ( ) | (s) talk    | ( ) | (t) heir     | ( ) |
| (u) island     | ( ) | (v) reign   | ( ) | (w) lamb     | ( ) |
| (x) caught     | ( ) | (y) debt    | ( ) | (z) doubt    | ( ) |

## 83. CLICHES

A cliché is a phrase that has lost its precise meaning by repeated usage. Here are some run-of-the-mill (cliché!) clichés. Do you know what they mean?

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) His heart was in his mouth   | (h) The acid test        |
| (b) Beauty is only skin deep     | (i) Castles in the air   |
| (c) A pretty kettle of fish      | (j) Hit the ceiling      |
| (d) It is not all black or white | (k) There's the rub      |
| (e) Move heaven and earth        | (l) A tower of strength  |
| (f) His own worst enemy          | (m) He drank like a fish |
| (g) A foregone conclusion        | (n) He sank like a stone |

## 84. THE SPOONERISM

Spoonerisms are apparently slips of the tongue. But they are sometimes engaged in deliberately.

W.A. Spooner (1844-1930), considered to be the originator of this art of switching around letters or syllables, once referred to Queen Victoria as "our queer old dean". What he meant was "our dear old queen".

Here are some other spoonerisms attributed to Dr. Spooner:

Calling on the dean of Christ Church, he inquired,  
"Is the bean dizzy?"

To a group of farmers, he began, "I have never before addressed so many tons of soil."

Visiting a friend who had just acquired a country cottage, he congratulated him on his "nosey little cook" (cosy little nook).

Can you make sense out of these spoonerisms?

- |  |
|--|
| (a) The Duck and the Dooches of Windsor used sporks and foons.                         |
| (b) You and your sin twister hissed my mystery lectures.                               |
| (c) In Indian films hisses and kugs are not permitted.                                 |
| (d) "Flass me the power," said the curried flook; "I have to trinkle it on the spout." |

- (e) A blushing crow; a half-warmed fish.
- (f) A well boiled icicle.
- (g) The thot plickens.
- (h) "Now missen lister," said a drunk, "sough I theem under the affluence of inkabol, I am not pilf as hackled as thinkle peep, as theeple pink I am."

You must have come across this spoonerism uttered by a nervous young church usher on his first Sunday duty: "Mardon me, Padam, this pie is occupied; allow me to sew you to another sheet." What he really wanted to say was: "Pardon me, madam, this pew is occupied; allow me to show you to another seat." Can you tell what these slips of the tongue mean?

- (i) To a young lady: Your ships are slowing.
- (j) I'm getting my soles half-shoed after I have a cough of cuppee.
- (k) Shores of skeels were fired in a bittel batter.
- (l) As I downed walk to the wailray station, I met a bark and it dogged at me. I pulled a hedge out of a stake and blocked its knock off.
- (m) When the President arrives he will be welcomed by a twenty-one-sun galoot.
- (n) After a programme of folk dances from Poland, an announcer said: You have been listening to Foolish Poke dances."

## 85. FREAKY LIMERICKS

There was a young man of Japan  
Whose limericks never would scan;  
When they said it was so,  
He replied, "Yes, I know,  
But I always try to get as many words  
into the last line as ever I possibly can."

A girl who weighed many an oz.  
Used language I dare not pronoz.  
For a fellow unkind  
Pulled her chair out behind.  
Just to see (so he said) if she'd boz.

There was an old man of St Bees,  
Who was stung in the arm by a wasp.  
When asked, "Does it hurt?"  
He replied, "No, it doesn',  
I'm so glad it wasn't a hornet."

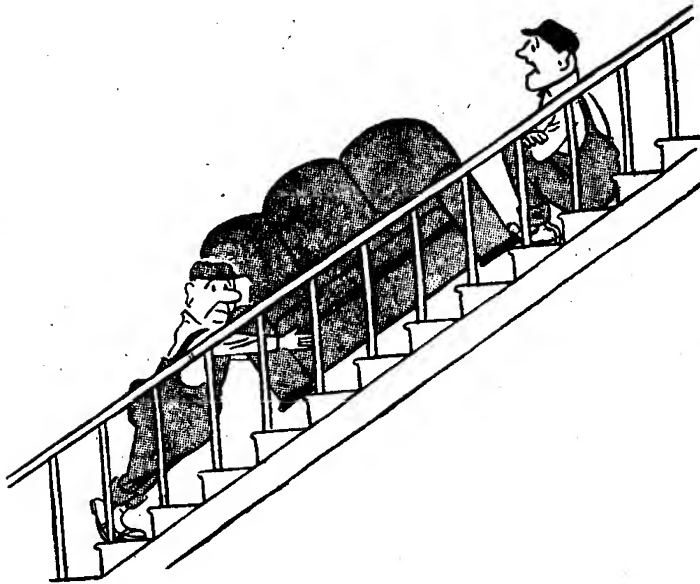
She frowned and called him Mr.  
Because in sport he kr.  
And so in spite  
That very nite  
This Mr. kr, sr.

There was a young fellow named Tate  
Who dined with his girl at 8.08.  
But I hate to relate  
What that fellow named Tate  
And his tete-a-tete ate at 8.08.



### 86. WHAT DID THEY SAY?

- (a) What did the traffic light say to the driver?
- (b) What did the piece of wood say to the electric drill?
- (c) What did the empty match-box say to the others that were full?



- (d) What did one hole in the ground say to the other?
- (e) What did the big chimney say to the little chimney?
- (f) What did the little colt say after clearing its throat?

- (g) What did one mosquito say to the other on Robinson Crusoe's arm?
- (h) What did one maths book say to another?
- (i) What did one fire-cracker say to another?
- (j) What did the pig say when the man got him by the tail?

### 87. WORDS CHAIN

One entertaining way of activating your vocabulary is to play this word-chain game. All you have to do is put down any word that comes to mind, at one end of the paper. With the last two letters of that word, build another word; and so on and on and on. It can serve as a useful pastime when travelling alone. You may also ask a friend to compete with you to see whose chain is longer. Take this simple example:

POST

STEEL

ELECTRIC

ICY CICLE

LEAST

STONE

NEST

NEST

STUMBLE

LEVER ...

## 88. CAN CAN

A canner exceedingly canny.  
One morning remarked to his granny:  
    "A canner can can  
    Anything that he can.  
But a canner can't can a can, can he?"

## 89. WHO'S WHO

Years ago there were married at Borsad, a town in Gujarat, an aged woman and a man, involving the following interesting relationships:

The man was married to his daughter's husband's mother-in-law, and his daughter's husband's wife's mother. And yet she was not his daughter's mother; but she is his grandchildren's grandmother, and his wife's grandchildren are his daughter's stepchildren. Consequently the old lady was united in the bonds of matrimony and conjugal affection to her daughter's brother-in-law's father-in-law, and her great-grandchildren's grandmother's stepfather; so that her son-in-law might have said to his children, "Your grandmother is married to my father-in-law, and yet he is not your grandfather; but he is your grandmother's son-in-law's wife's father. This man married his son-in-law's father-in-law's wife. His wife is his son-in-law's grandchildren's great-grandmother.

## 90. ABRACADABRA

You should be able to make at least sixteen small words using only the letters found in ABRACADABRA, each letter only once in a word.

Of the sixteen words, there should be at least *one palindromic word* and *two pairs of mirror-words* (which can be read backwards to form a word with a different meaning, unlike the palindromic word which has the same meaning.)

## LAST LAUGHS

A barber, new to the job, cut a customer very badly. At the end the barber asked: "Do you want your head wrapped in a hot towel, sir?"

The exasperated customer: "No. I'll carry it home under my arms!"

★ ★ ★ ★

A prisoner was sentenced to a labour camp "for the rest of his life." The guard found him breaking stones one day and asked if he had any complaints. The prisoner raged: "The Judge sent me here for the rest of my life, but do you call breaking stones all day a *rest*?"

## WORDS OF CAUTION

A fair young damsel, timid and shy,  
Bought *Fun With Words* to give it a try;  
Now she's bubbling with fun  
But her homework's undone;  
"I'll improve," she says. "by and by!"

A bright young student called Fred,  
Took to *Fun With Words* like butter to bread;  
Devoured it day and night  
Never kept it out of sight.  
No wonder he's gone off his head!



## FUN WITH WORDS FACTS

Of all the languages in the world, English has the *largest vocabulary*. The most comprehensive dictionaries contain about one million words. However, three-fourths of the words belong to special fields, especially science and medicine. Shakespeare in all his works, used about 20,000 different words.



The *longest word* so far coined, can be found in a comedy. *The Ecclesiazusae*, written by Aristophanes. It is, naturally, a Greek word spelled in our alphabet with *182 letters*.

There is a compound word of *194* sanskrit characters describing the region near Kanci, Tamilnadu, which appears in a 16th century work by the queen of Vijayanagara, Tirumalamba. When transliterated into English, the word contains *428 letters* of the Roman alphabet.

In English, the longest word found in the Oxford Dictionary contains *29 letters*:

*FLOCCIPAUCINIHIPIILIFICATION.*

It means, "the action of estimates as worthless."

(The alternate words are in *italics* to make it easier for you to read)

The longest word, found in Webster's Third International Dictionary, contains 47 letters. The word is:

PNEUMONOUltramicroscopicSilicovolcanoconiosis

The word is defined as a lung disease of miners, in the plural.

★ ★ ★ ★

The *longest alphabet* is the old Cambodian alphabet which has 72 letters. The *shortest alphabet* of only 11 letters is used in Rotokas, the South Pacific island of Bougainville.

★ ★ ★ ★

In English, the letters most used in words are, in order:

e, t, a, o, i, u.

The *most common letter* is 'e'.

The *most common initial letter* is 'T'.

★ ★ ★ ★

The *most common written words* are, in order:

the, of, and, to, a, in, that, is, I, it, for, as.

The *most common spoken word* is 'I'

The *most prepositions* ending a sentence:

"Mommy, what did you bring that book which I didn't want to read to out of from about "Down Under" up for?"

It is supposedly what a child might say to his mother if he did not want to hear a particular bedtime story about "Down Under", a nickname for Australia.

★ ★ ★ ★

The *longest sentence* containing *two-letter words*, twenty in all, is:

So if it is in or if it is on, it is  
as it is, be it in or on.

★ ★ ★ ★

The *most homophonous sound* for common words used in English is "roz" It has *nine* different meanings:

rose (flower);	rose (past tense of rise);
rows (of objects);	rows (a boat); roes (deer);
roes (fish eggs);	rose (compass face);
rose (hose spray);	rhos (plural of a Greek letter)

Research linguists, however, claim that the sounds *air* and *sol* both have 38 homophones in English.

★ ★ ★ ★

The word QUEUEING has *five consecutive vowels*, which is the record for an English word.

The *longest* non-scientific English words which can form *anagrams* contain *18 letters*. They are: 'conservationists' and 'conversationalists'. It has been found that the word 'aster' can form *28 anagrams*.



The *longest* non-technical *Palindromic* word in English is R E D I V I D E R. It contains *nine* letters. Another 9-letter palindromic word used in India with reference to the language spoken in Kerala is M A L A Y A L A M. A third nine-letter palindromic word is R O T A V A T O R, a registered trade mark belonging to a U.S. Machinery Firm. The contrived chemical term D E T A R T R A T E D has 11 letters.



The *hardest English Tongue-Twister*, according to most people, is:

The sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick.



## SOLUTIONS

### ON YOUR MARKS...

FUN is not a personal matter because there always is a “you” (u) right in the middle of it.

WORDS is even less personal. It involves a “double-you” (w), doesn’t it?

#### 1. Beginnings and Endings

- A. (a) cattle (b) catapult (c) catalogue (d) catacomb  
(e) catchy (f) cater (g) cataract (h) catholic  
(i) category (j) catastrophe
- B. (a) candle (b) candy (c) canvas (d) canister  
(e) canine (f) canvass (g) cancer (h) cannon  
(i) canal (j) canteen
- C. (a) slant (b) vigilant (c) defiant (d) lieutenant/  
commandant (e) contestant (f) enchant (g) distant  
(h) remnant (i) compliant (j) indignant
- D. (a) suffocate (b) inflate (c) dictate (d) moderate  
(e) infatuate (f) commemorate (g) deviate  
(h) communicate (i) rotate (j) fluctuate
- E. (a) breakage/damage (b) luggage/baggage  
(c) sewage (d) carriage (e) espionage (f) brokerage  
(g) carnage (h) vintage (i) marriage (j) sage
- F. (a) distract (b) attract (c) exact (d) substract  
(e) extract (f) impact (g) compact (h) transact  
(i) contract/pact (j) tact
- G. (a) feasting (b) resting (c) jesting (d) blasting  
(e) boasting (f) detesting (g) contesting  
(h) arresting (i) dusting

- H. (a) celebrity (b) weighty (c) poverty (d) curiosity  
(e) quantity (f) punctuality (g) tasty (h) hasty  
(i) opportunity (j) cavity

## 2. Chinese tea song

The "Chinese" is nothing more than misspaced English

Oh come to the tea shop with me.

And buy a pound of the best.

'Twill prove a most excellent tea.

Its quality all will attest

'Tis only four shillings a pound.

So come to the tea mart and try.

No better can elsewhere be found

Or that any other need buy.

## 3. Word Ladders

- A. (a) DEER DEED FEED FEND FOND  
(b) BORE BONE LONE LONG SONG  
(c) BENT BEET BEAT BEAD READ  
(d) CARE RARE RACE RICE RICH  
(e) FARE BARE BORE BONE BOND  
(f) GALE GALL BALL BAIL SAIL

- B. (a) SEEK SEED FEED FEND FIND  
(b) FIND FINE LINE LONE LOSE  
(c) LOSE POSE POST PAST PART  
(d) GAIN PAIN PAIL TAIL TOIL  
(e) SILK MILK MILE FILE FIRE  
(f) HEAT HEAD HELD HOLD COLD

- C. (a) SHOE SHOT SOOT BOOT  
(b) CAT COT COG DOG  
(c) ROSE LOSE LOST LIST LILT  
LILY  
(d) HARD CARD CART CAST EAST  
EASY  
or HARD HARE CARE CASE EASE  
EASY  
(e) WARM WORM WORD CORD COLD  
(f) WHEAT CHEAT CHEAP CHEEP CREEP  
CREED BREED BREAD  
(g) DRINK BRINK BLINK BLANK BLAND  
BLEND  
(h) SHELF SHELL SHALL SHALE SHAME  
SHAMS SEAMS BEAMS BEANS

## D. Lupine Steps

WOLF GOLF GOLD FOLD  
WOLF WOOF WOOD FOOD  
FOND BOND BONE

WOLF WOOF WOOD WORD WORE  
WIRE FIRE

(perhaps you have a different ladder of words)

### 5. Riddles for you to solve

- (a) An Umbrella (b) A Secret (c) Ox  
(d) A yard (e) Tomorrow

### CONUNDRUMS

- (b) take out some tobacco (c) wet  
(d) finding half a worm (e) the dentist

### 6. Word Search

- A. The nine-letter word is FLOWERPOT  
You can check the other words in a dictionary for correct spellings

### B. ASPHYXIATION

an, ah, as, at, ax, ay, ha, hi, ho, in, is, it, oh,  
on, ox, so, to;

aha, ait, ant, any, apt, ash, has, hat, hay, hip,  
his, hit, hop, hot, nap, nip, nit, nix, not, oat,  
pan, pat, pay, pin, pit, pot, psi, pyx, sap, sat,  
say, sin, sip, sit, sop, spy, sty, tan, tap, tax,  
tin, tip, ton, top, yap;

ahoy, ants, atop, axis, ayah, hats, hint, hips,  
hoax, hops, host, iota, nosy, oats, onyx, pain,  
pant, past, path, pint, piny, pony, post, post,

ship, shop, shot, span, spat, spin, spit, spot,  
stay, stop, taxi, thin, this, tiny;

aphis, ataxy, hasty, nasty, paint, pants, pansy,  
pasha, pasty, point, saint, satan, satin, sixth,  
stain, tansy, tapis, taxis, tipsy, toxin;

patina, patois, piston, points, python, siphon,  
sphinx, syntax, pythian.

### C. and D. Check a dictionary.

### 8. Sound language

- A. P O T A T O *gh* stands for *p* as it sounds in the last letters of 'hiccough'; *ough* for *o* as in 'dough'; *phth* for *t* as it is pronounced in 'phthisis'; *eight* for *a* as in 'weigh'; *tt* for *t* as in 'brunette'; *eau* for *o* as in 'tableau'

### B. Sound words

- (a) when dry sticks burn, or are tread on; machine gun fire; (b) dry leaves; pages of a book; (c) steam escaping, or when water falls on a very hot surface; (d) dragging feet; (e) clock; (f) uncoiled hinges of door, window; (g) coins, keys, small bells; (h) teeth; (i) brakes of a car; (j) mice, new shoes; (k) bells; (l) cart.



### C. Sound twins

- (i) knick-knack; hocus-pocus; hotch-potch; riff-raff; ding-dong; slip-slop; razzle-dazzle; hugger-mugger; pit-pat; tip-top; zig-zag; helter-skelter; sing-song; criss-cross
- (ii) raggle-taggle; flip-flop; teeny-weeny; wishy-washy; wiggle-waggle; namby-pamby; willy-nilly; riff-raff; dilly-dally; hurry-curry; pell-mell; ship-shape; walkie-talkie; tell-tale

### D. Sound spelling

- (a) hoarse-horse (b) dear-deer (c) heart-hart  
(d) bare-bear (e) hair-hare (f) bore-boar  
(g) dough-doe

### F. Homonyms

- (a) blind (b) stern (c) jar (d) loaf (e) stick  
(f) ball (g) fit (h) crane (i) mole (j) file

### 9. Word Jumbles

A. LAUGH TEARS SHOUT SLEEP SMILE  
...HOARSE...

B. RECALL REVISE REVIEW REMIND  
MEMORY...VIVID...CALM...WORRY

### C. Ornithology

- (a) JAY (b) HAWK (c) SWIFT  
(d) TURKEY (e) LARK (f) GULL  
(g) GROUSE (h) SWALLOW (i) HUMMING  
(j) CHICKEN (k) CROW BIRD  
(l) QUAIL

### D. Scrambled birds

- (a) koel (b) bulbul (c) seagull (d) crane  
(e) myna (f) parrot (g) pigeon (h) sparrow  
(i) vulture (j) peahen (k) crow (l) peacock

### Animals

- E. PANTHER PIG LION  
ZEBRA DEER HEDGEHOG  
HORSE FOX WOLF  
GIRAFFE CHEETAH LEOPARD

### F. Fruit Salad

- (a) pomegranate (b) banana (c) pineapple  
(d) mangoes (e) grapes (f) jackfruit  
(g) guava (h) papaya (i) orange  
(j) apple (k) plum

### G. Jumbled pairs

- (a) feel and taste (b) spear and dagger  
(c) rocks and stone (d) tire and weary  
(e) sir and mister (f) hate and scorn

### 11. Analogies

- A. (i) (a), (ii) (c), (iii) (d), (iv) (b), (v) (b)  
(vi) (a) present (b) circle (c) whirlpool
- B. (a) sour (b) ring (c) grove (d) acquitted  
(e) rural (f) Gurudwara (g) factory

### 12. Simple similes

- A. (a) smooth (b) elementary (c) fit  
(d) stubborn (e) cunning (f) sturdy  
(g) unpredictable (h) light (i) blind (j) quick
- B. (a) new paint (b) gall (c) nails (d) rock  
(e) lamb (f) bee

### 14. Word Squares

- A. (a) RATS (b) CASH (c) SLOT  
AREA ABLE LIVE  
TEAM SLUR OVEN  
SAME HERO TENT
- (d) SHUN (e) SLOW (f) ROPE  
HOSE LURE OVER  
USES ORES PEAR  
NEST WEST ERRS

- B. (a) TROT RAVE OVEN TENT  
(b) THAT HOLE ALAS TEST

### C. Anagrams Square

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| (a) MITE | (b) TALES | (c) NOTES |
| EMIT     | STALE     | ONSET     |
| TIME     | LEAST     | TONES     |
| ITEM     | STEAL     | STONE     |

### D. Three for a dozen

- |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| (a) HEAT | (b) PROD | (c) ECHO |
| EASE     | RAGE     | CHAP     |
| ASKS     | OGRE     | HARE     |
| TEST     | DEER     | OPEN     |

### E. Down and across

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| (a) SCRAP | (b) SNOUT |
| CRAVE     | NORTH     |
| RAVES     | ORATE     |
| AVERT     | UTTER     |
| PESTS     | THERE     |
| (c) SHOUT | (d) PASTE |
| HORSE     | ACTOR     |
| ORDER     | STONE     |
| USERS     | TONIC     |
| TERSE     | ERECT     |

### 15. Proverbs

- A. (a) man (b) nine (c) human (d) friend  
(e) feather (f) choosers (g) honesty (h) remedy  
(i) stand (j) eggs (k) dog

### B. Opposite Proverbs

a-i; b-j; c-e; d-h; e-g; f-b; g-c; h-f;  
i-d; j-a;

### C. Proverbial animals

- (a) WOLF—keep the wolf from the door.  
(b) SNAKE—snake in the grass.  
(c) CAT—catnap  
(d) LION—a social lion  
(e) APE  
(f) COW—to cow a person into submission  
(g) CROW—to crow over some accomplishment  
(h) WHALE—a whale of a good time  
(i) HORSE—Horseplay  
(j) FROG—a frog in one's throat

### D. Popular expressions

- (a) Facts are stranger than fiction.  
(b) Don't cry over spilt milk.  
(c) Variety is the spice of life.

- (d) Too many cooks spoil the soup.  
(e) Spare the rod and spoil the child.  
(f) A bird in hand is worth two in a bush.  
(g) To err is human, to forgive divine.  
(h) Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

### E. Proverbial quiz

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Honesty              | (g) The last straw  |
| (b) Barking dogs         | (h) New tricks      |
| (c) Beggars              | (i) Absence         |
| (d) All work and no play | (j) Failures        |
| (e) The carpenter        | (k) All your eggs   |
| (f) An apple             | (l) A rolling stone |
|                          | (m) your coat       |

### 17. Body language

- A. (a)-(d); (b)-(j); (c)-(k); (d)-(o); (e)-(n);  
(f)-(i); (g)-(b); (h)-(a); (i)-(m); (j)-(l);  
(k)-(h); (l)-(g); (m)-(c); (n)-(f); (o)-(e).

### B. A nosey parker

- (a) directly in front of him  
(b) frustrate him  
(c) interfere without being asked  
(d) go straight ahead  
(e) easily seen  
(f) keep far from trouble  
(g) guide him by physical contact

- (h) behave as if one is superior
- (i) look down on, despise
- (j) cause damage to one's own interests in a fit of rage

#### **The heart speaks**

- (a) very sincerely (b) very frightened or anxious
- (c) strong desire (d) basically, deep down
- (e) as much as one pleases (f) full involvement
- (g) the essence (h) very humane; show feelings
- (i) be courageous (j) feel greatly, be affected
- (k) willingly, completely (l) cause sadness

#### **D. Idioms**

(a) person who criticizes without have direct knowledge of the subject; (b) disappointing/humiliating experience; (c) say or do something that brings unpleasant consequences; (d) praise/agree on something with words only; (e) not the sort of thing I like; (f) to exert private influence in favour of oneself/friends; (g) give guidance to another on a subject you yourself are not well-versed in; (h) having nothing special to do (i) an unexpected and sudden misfortune; (j) suddenly and unexpectedly; (k) to be reprimanded by one's superior; (l) to put an end to excessive shyness and awkwardness in one's relations with people; (m) the shortest route between two places; (n) completely destitute; (o) to do something you feel you ought to do, even if you don't feel inclined to do it;

(p) one who never wants to change, and will never compromise, whatever anyone else does; (q) at the very end; (r) a strong outcry in alarm or protest; (s) see a significance or importance which is not obvious on the surface; (t) put briefly and concisely; (u) settle a debt; (v) dull routine, regularity; (w) come out victorious after disturbance, trouble; (x) unsettled person.

#### **E. Sayings and doings**

All the correct answers are at (iii)

#### **F. Speaking in style**

- (a) accept blame, responsibility.
- (b) have something in reserve, a surprise trick, another's plan or move.
- (c) perfectly well.
- (d) are experienced, familiar.
- (e) use influence, underhand...
- (f) vacillate.
- (g) exaggerating a trifle, making much of little.
- (h) worthless, not helpful.
- (i) make a hypocritical show of sorrow.
- (j) as one above the level, entranced, exalted.
- (k) ponder, consider.

#### **19. Differences**

- (a) an elephant can have a flea but a flea can't have an elephant

- (b) one you lick with a stick, the other you stick with a lick
- (c) the man wears an entire suit; the dog just pants
- (d) one is a tail light; the other a light tale
- (e) one minds the train, the other trains the mind
- (f) one records the beat, the other beats the record
- (g) one cannot go to sea, the other cannot see to go
- (h) one knows his blows, the other blows his nose
- (i) one shaves with razors, the other raises shavers
- (j) one is a female, the other a mail fee
- (k) the one has its pause at the end of its clause, the other has its claws at the end of its paws
- (l) one eats long, the other longs to eat

## 20. Anagrams

- |    |                     |                    |
|----|---------------------|--------------------|
| A. | (a) Conversation    | (b) desperation    |
|    | (c) remuneration    | (d) punishment     |
|    | (e) steamer         | (f) waitress       |
|    | (g) upholsterers    | (h) hustlers       |
|    | (i) softheartedness | (j) metaphysicians |
|    | (k) agitator        | (l) constraint     |
|    | (m) Parliament      | (n) determination  |

## B. Word twisting

- (a) TEACHER (b) CATERER (c) SERPENT
- (d) LEADER (e) SLATE (f) GENERAL
- (g) FRIEND (h) RELAY

## C. Shifting letters

The words *star*, *tar*, *arts*, *rats*, fulfill the requirements

## D. Word scramble

- (a) ACRES CARES RACES SCARE
- (b) MITRES MISTER MERITS REMITS  
SMITER TIMERS
- (c) PRIEST RIPLEST SPRITE STRIPE  
TRIPES

## E. Wrack your brains

- (a) SPOT STOP TOPS POTS OPTS POST
- (b) TEAMS TAMES MATES MEATS STEAM  
or LEAPS LAPSE PLEAS PALES PEALS  
SEPAL

## 23. To the Point

### A. Fashion show

- (a) oilcloth (b) prints (c) net (d) duck
- (e) checks or cashmere (f) canvas
- (g) cheesecloth (h) goldcloth (i) lawn

**B. Play Place**

- (a) wings (b) auditorium (c) green room  
(d) lobby (e) backstage (f) pit (g) box-office  
(h) proscenium

**C. At home with words**

- (a) loft (b) threshold (c) elevation (d) storey  
(e) attic (f) verandah (g) landing (h) balcony  
(i) eaves (j) basement (k) rafters (l) cellar  
(m) plan (n) joists (o) cavity (p) french-window

**D. Tea things**

- (a)-(d): (b)-(f); (c)-(h); (d)-(a);  
(e)-(c); (f)-(g); (g)-(b); (h)-(e).

**E. To each his own**

- (a) cobbler (b) conductor(music) (c) butcher  
(d) mountaineer (e) dentist (f) judge  
(g) gardener (h) potter, turner (i) weaver  
(j) carpenter (k) mason (l) surgeon (m) miner

**24. Wedded Words**

**A. Emphatically speaking**

- i. The pairs are in reverse order.

- ii. (a)-(c); (b)-(g); (c)-(a); (d)-(h)  
(e)-(f); (f)-(b); (g)-(e); (h)-(i);  
(i)-(d).

**B. Three in a row**

- (a) healthy-wealthy-wise (b) hook-line-sinker  
(c) wine-women-song (d) stop-look-go  
(e) lock-stock-barrel (f) ready-willing-able  
(g) faith-hope-charity (h) knife-fork-spoon  
(i) blood-sweat-tears (j) right-left-centre

**26. Letters have fun**

- (a) ideality (b) sixty (c) nowhere (now-here)  
(d) equation, precarious, authorize, behaviour,  
unsociable, unquestionably  
N.B. in the following words the vowels appear  
in alphabetical order: facetious,  
abstemious, arsenious  
(e) wrong  
(f) HEREIN: he, her, here, ere, re, rei, rein, ein,  
in  
(g) USHER: us, she, he, her  
(h) ALPHABET  
(i) (ST)ONE  
(j) QUEUE  
(k) STRENGTHS  
(l) TEN (DENCY)  
(m) He said that that "that" that that "that" that  
Shyam referred to was supposed to indicate,  
was out of place in the sentence.  
(n) Plague

**28. Word fusion**

- A. (a) rotate (b) carpet (c) putrid (d) wintry  
(e) satrap (f) margin
- B. (a) OFFICE (b) ENDEAR (c) FATHER  
(d) PALACE (e) CARROT

**29. Fillings**

- A. (a) The three-letter word is AND  
...commandant...hand...landed...  
and...demanded...stand...
- (b) The three-letter word is RAT.  
...rattled...rats...grateful...  
pirate...crates...
- B. **The balancing act**
- (a) es (b) le (c) ve (d) und (e) al (f) in (g) st  
(h) en (i) te (j) le

**C. Pull outs**

- (a) Pus|LLAnimous (b) sliPSHod; shiPSHape;  
snaPHShot; (c) paTHWay (d) puSHFul  
(e) eigHTh (f) uNKNot, uNKNowN (g) laPSIng;  
HarPSIchord (h) myRRH, cataRRH  
(i) diNOSaur (j) caTHARsis

**D. Word Challenge**

- (a) u.s.e (b) r.a.g.e (c) c.u.t (d) l.i.e.s  
(e) c.a.n (f) u.r.g.e (g) v.a.c.a.t.e (h) l.a.s.t  
(i) j.o.y (j) c.u.e (k) r.a.m.b.l.e (l) r.a.s.c.a.l  
(m) s.l.i.d (n) p.i.n.n.e.d (o) s.a.v.e (p) s.e.e  
(q) d.e.a.d

**E. Taken for a ride**

P L E A S E  
E N S U R E  
R E C I T E  
E N I G M A  
M O B I L E  
E N T O M B  
U R B A N E  
E N T A I L  
A C T I V E  
E S C O R T  
O C T A V E  
E L I X I R

**32. Conundrums you will like**

- (a) he deals in suits  
(b) it can be scaled

- (c) both are a false-hood
- (d) they are regular, irregular and defective
- (e) they come in packs
- (f) he follows you only in sunshine
- (g) one word leads to another
- (h) the more you lick it the faster it goes
- (i) it is weekly
- (j) there is no point in it

### 33. Sheer commonsense

All these conundrums demand a common-sense answer.

- (a) because it cannot go under it
- (b) when the door is open
- (c) wet
- (d) to button up his coat
- (e) because she cannot look on both sides at the same time
- (f) because if he closed both he wouldn't be able to see
- (g) loss of hair
- (h) perfectly normal; for his fingers are properly divided between his two hands

### 34. Give and take

#### A. Drop this B's-ness

- (a) bear (b) beach (c) bleak (d) blaze (e) blast
- (f) blend (g) block (h) blame (i) bought

#### B. Word Change

- (a) s(t)ale (b)s(t)and (c) stick (d) stink (e) stay
- (f) stole (g) stack (h) steal (i) still (j) atlas

#### C. Knock out

- (a) strip (b) frail (c) gastronomy (d) raid
- (e) switch (f) tease (g) flower (h) lash (i) cage
- (j) revolution

#### D. Driver turns diver

- (a) driver-diver (b) flour (c) paunch (d) flake
- (e) plump (f) snack (g) ship (h) pilot (i) grab
- (j) free

#### E. There to here

- (a) tail (b) trough (c) teach (d) tissue (e) trust
- (f) tour (g) taunt

#### F. Bake a cake

- (a) cry-dry (b) fish-dish (c) haste-taste
- (d) passed-pasted (e) quite-quiet (f) check-cheek



### 37. The Missing Letter

- A. (a) the letter 'l': flight; pearl; realm, kiln, pelt, loft, lair, slang, plate, slink, slip, slow, split, clock, vile, easel  
(b) The letter 'r': dread, ever, crave, frame, strove, harsh, frail, drone, strain, brawl, port, dearth, fraction, freed, crow, drove, gray, grave
- B. a. pomp   b. blank   c. palms   d. struck  
e. cause   f. sprint   g. swear   h. exist  
i. course   j. metals   k. bowel   l. chat  
m. smash   n. swift   o. grave
- C. (a) the letter 'b': initial letter of all words  
(b) the letter 'k': bunk, seek, know, sink, knot, plank, task  
(c) the letter 'l': mild, ideal, model, kiln, black, drawl, cowl  
(d) the letter 't': twig, twitch, tent, stunt, steal, start, event

### 39. Eliminations

- (a) LONE   (b) LIAR   (c) THERE   (d) CUR  
(e) PATE   (f) DIRE   (g) DEEP   (h) BEST  
(i) DIN   (j) ORE   (k) FAD

### 40. Word Cones

- (a) RELATE, LATER, TALE, TEA, AT, A  
(b) FRIEND, FRIED, FIRE, FIR, IF, I  
(c) STAPLE, PLATE, TALE, EAT, AT, A  
(d) TAILOR, TRAIL, TAIL, LIT, IT, I  
(e) MODEST, DOMES, MODE, ODE, DO, O  
(f) MINUTE, UNITE, UNIT, TIN, IT, I  
(g) ROUND, DOUR, ROD, OR, O  
(h) KNIFED, FIEND, FINE, FIN, IN, I  
(i) GENERAL, ANGLER, RANGE, NEAR, RAN, AN, A.

### 42. The rebus

- (a) For you the Indian tea is excellent.  
(b) Be above enmity between neighbours and relations. There are defects on both sides.  
(c) I rate you lower than a man, above a beast. Know between you and me I am above the rest.  
(d) YOU ARE DIVINE: I SEE YOU ARE IN ECSTASY  
(e) envious  
(f) Anyone, you see, can be envious and jay.  
(g) ALL in ONE.  
(h) Are you too busy? Why aren't you in the queue?

(i) A Square meal.

(j) Rhyming rebus

Too wise you are  
Too wise you be  
I see you are  
Too wise for me

(k) Musical rebus

(a) A-Sharp Major (b) B-Natural (c) A-Minor  
(d) Because if you don't C-Sharp you will  
B-Flat (e) B-Sharp and B-Natural, but never  
B-Flat.

#### 44. Palindromes

CIVIC DEED DEIFIED DEWED EKE EWE  
EYE GAG MADAM NOON PEEP POP PUP  
RADAR REDDER REDIVIDER REFER  
REPAPER REVIVER ROTOR SAGAS SEES  
SEXAS SHAHS SOLOS TENET TOT

#### 45. Word mirrors

(a) time-emit (b) spool-loops (c) parts-strap  
(d) dam-mad (e) pot-top (f) ten-net (g) live-evil  
(h) part-trap (i) gum-mug (j) ward-draw

#### 46. Synonyms

A. (a) group (b) make right (c) doubting (d) yield .  
(e) make easy (f) clothing (g) preposterous

B. (a)-(f); (b)-(d); (c)-(g); (d)-(c); (e)-(a); (f)-(e);  
(g)-(h); (h)-(b);

#### C. A headful of synonyms

(a) affirm, insist, assert  
(b) docile, gentle  
(c) clings, sticks  
(d) center, kernel

#### D. A gourmet's delight

(a) bite (b) bolt (c) munch (d) masticate  
(e) crunch (f) gnaw (g) gobble (h) chew  
(i) nibble (j) peck

#### E. Damaging words

(a)-(e); (b)-(h); (c)-(i); (d)-(g); (e)-(b); (f)-(j);  
(g)-(d); (h)-(f); (i)-(c); (j)-(a)

#### 48. Moronic condundrums

(a) Three. One to hold the bulb, two to turn him  
round.  
(b) He wanted to write short-hand.  
(c) He wanted to see time fly.

- (d) He moved to the living room.
- (e) It was a High School.
- (f) He was waiting for a traffic jam.
- (g) He didn't want to wake the sleeping pills.
- (h) He was a light sleeper.
- (i) The heads were on the wrong end.
- (j) He had heard that the treats were on the house.

#### 49. Jekyll and Hyde words

- A. (a) to develop from; (b) to adhere; (c) loose living; or tied up; (d) to inspect (e) middle position.
- B. (a) fire (b) let (c) board (d) strike (e) fast  
(f) copy (g) hard (h) bias (i) like (j) project  
(k) mean

#### 51. In circles

Across: 1. ARC 4. SEGMENT 8. CIRCUMFERENCE 9. DIAMETER

Down: 2. CENTRE 3. RADIUS 5. TANGENT  
6. SECTOR 7. SECANT 8. CHORD

#### 52. Criss-Cross

Across: 1. bargain 4. canal 6. late 8. oh  
10. course 11. meditate

Down: 1. building 2. route 3. near 5. language  
7. cinema 9. hound

#### 54. One and Only

(a)-(d): (b)-(b); (c)-(g); (d)-(e); (e)-(f);  
(f)-(a); (g)-(c).

#### 55. Once more, please!

She said, "He said 'What'?"

#### 56. Shades of meaning

- A. (a) An *airship* is a gas-filled, lighter than air dirigible; an *aeroplane* is a heavier than air machine.
- (b) A *rifle* differs from a *gun* in having its barrel specially grooved to render greater accuracy in firing.
- (c) *Commerce* distributes while *industry* produces.
- (d) A *star* is a fixed celestial body, which has its own light; whereas a *planet* is a celestial body which revolves round the sun and does not have its own light.
- (e) A *clock*, unlike your *watch* cannot be carried in your pocket or worn around your wrist.

- (f) *Atmosphere* is the air at any place, or the feeling got from a place or a condition; *environment* refers to surroundings, circumstances, influences.
- (g) A *roof* is the top covering of a building; a *ceiling* is the upper or overhead surface of a room
- (h) They are the same except in counting; you begin counting the *storeys* from ground level; whereas, we have a ground *floor*, and the counting begins at the second storey.
- (i) *Contemporaneous*: living at the same time  
*Simultaneous*: happening at the same time  
*Concurrent*: events coming together

- B.**
- (a) *Same*: identical, unchanged, not different  
*Similar*: like, of the same kind
  - (b) These are often wrongly interchanged  
*Never*: at no time, on no occasion  
*Not*: used to make a negative
  - (c) *Alone*: Without the company or help of others or other things  
*Lonely*: sadness caused by lack of sympathy or friends
  - (d) *Hear*: become aware of sound with the ears  
*Listen*: try to hear; pay attention
  - (e) *Discovery*: find out something existing but not yet known  
*Invention*: create something not existing before

- (f) *Hinder*: make it difficult for...  
*Prevent*: stop someone from continuing an activity
- (g) *Error*: mistake; wrong belief. *Fault*: defect
- (h) *Childish*: behave like child.  
*Childlike*: simple, innocent
- (i) *Habit*: belongs to the individual.  
*Custom*: belongs to a society or country.
- (j) *Centre*: a definite point.  
*Middle*: indefinite space around the 'centre'.

## 59. At the zoo

- A.** (a) whinnies, neighs, snorts (b) hoots, screeches  
(c) clucks, cackles (d) baas, bleats (e) barks  
(f) gobbles (g) hisses (h) coos (i) laughs  
(j) growls (k) cronks (l) brays (m) chatters, scolds  
(n) squeaks
- B.** (a) cat (b) horse (c) deer (d) swan (e) bird  
(f) goose (g) frog (h) hare
- C.** (a) gander (b) bull (c) buck (d) drake (e) boar  
(f) ram (g) stallion (h) fox (i) deer
- D.** (a) mosquitoes, beetles, wasps  
(b) lizards, snakes, tortoises (c) mice, rabbits  
(d) mosquitoes, snakes, wasps (e) giraffes, swans  
(f) mice, rabbits, giraffes  
(g) mice, lizards, giraffes

## 60. Right expressions

Cross out the following:

- (a) Further. *Farther* shows actual distance; *further* shows quality or degree.

- (b) Contemptible. *Contemptuous* is what is felt or thought about contemptible actions, remarks, opinions. *Contemptible* things or persons deserve contempt.

### 61. Antonyms

- (a) professional (b) dry (c) clarify (d) gradually  
(e) waste

### 62. Logic frolic

- (a) C *must* be true, because "some of my uncles drink tea" and none of them is a bull.  
(b) A *might* be true, because "all bulls have big eyes," but presumably no other creatures, including my uncles, possibly.  
(c) B *cannot* be true, because "none of my uncles is a bull."

### 63. Sensible marks

- (a) Every lady in this land  
Has twenty nails; upon each hand  
Five, and twenty on hands and feet.  
All this is true without deceit.  
(b) That that is, is; that that is not, is not; is not that it? It is.  
(c) It was "and" I said, not "are," and "and" and "are" are different.

### (d) The Optimist

That deep red rose I see;  
Its thorn I just ignore.  
The scent that's borne to me—  
It's nothing I deplore!

Those scratches that I got—  
Before I just complain  
About the pain a lot,  
I think of beauty's gain.

### The Pessimist

That deep red rose—I see its thorn.  
I just ignore the scent that's borne.  
To me it's nothing. I deplore  
Those scratches that I got before.  
I just complain about the pain.  
A lot I think of beauty's gain.

### 64. The right stresses

- |             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| (a) conduct | (b) record   | (c) minute   |
| (d) present | (e) refuse   | (f) object   |
| (g) August  | (h) entrance | (i) subjects |

### 66. Spellings

Look up your dictionary.

### 67. Prepositional power

- (a)-(c); (b)-(d); (c)-(e); (d)-(f); (e)-(g);  
(f)-(a); (g)-(b); (h)-(i); (i)-(h).  
B. (a)-(e); (b)-(h); (c)-(g); (e)-(f); (f)-(a);  
(g)-(j); (h)-(i); (i)-(b); (j)-(d).

**68. Literate ignoramus**

- (a) range    (b) gain    (c) train    (d) mastery  
(e) ignore    (f) rote    (g) smile

**69. Child's Play**

- (a) camels    (b) chisel    (c) dismal    (d) chimed  
(e) malice    (f) mailed    (g) shield    (h) mashed  
(i) sliced    (j) chilly    (k) chased    (l) pallid  
(m) cashed    (n) claims    (o) medals

**70. Creative Vocabulary**

**The verse without a**

Polly owned a little sheep,  
Its fleece shone white like snow,  
Every region where Polly went,  
The sheep did surely go;  
He followed her to school one time,  
Which broke the rigid rule;  
The children frolicked in their room  
To see the sheep in school.

**The verse without s**

Mary had a little lamb,  
With fleece a pale white hue,  
And everywhere that Mary went  
The lamb kept her in view;

To academe he went with her,  
Illegal, and quite rare;  
It made the children laugh and play  
To view a lamb in there.

**The verse without t**

Mary had a pygmy lamb,  
His fleece was pale as snow,  
And every place which Mary walked  
Her lamb did also go;  
He came inside her classroom once,  
Which broke a rigid rule;  
How children all did laugh and play  
On seeing a lamb in school!

**73. Dictionary needed?**

- A.** (a)-(g); (b)-(f); (c)-(e); (d)-(d); (e)-(h); (f)-(a);  
(g)-(i); (h)-(c); (i)-(b);

**B. Psychologically speaking**

- (a)-(f); (b)-(e); (c)-(k); (d)-(i); (e)-(l); (f)-(j);  
(g)-(a); (h)-(b); (i)-(c); (j)-(d); (k)-(h); (l)-(g)

**C. Technically speaking**

- (a) autos    (b) surgery    (c) hair washing  
(d) music    (e) dairy    (f) atomic bomb  
(g) printing    (h) painting    (i) medicine  
(j) electricity    (k) photo-    (l) furniture  
                                graphy

**D. Talking Shop**

- (a) Eye diseases (b) Maps (c) Talked Shop  
(d) Children's diseases (e) Talks shop  
(f) Talked shop (g) Birds (h) Talks shop

**E. Identity Search**

- (a) The meteorologist.  
(b) A felon is a person guilty of a major serious crime, like murder, armed robbery, arson.

**F. Superficially speaking**

- (a) sphere, globe, bullet, pea, ball, etc.  
(b) a solid cone  
(c) a solid cylinder  
(d) a pyramid that has a triangular base  
(e) a pyramid that has a square base  
(f) a cube

**76. Riddle Time**

- A. This puzzle is solved by the word ENIGMA, from which are formed, as indicated, the words: aim, men, game, man, mine, gain, gem and amen.

- B. (a) FOOL is the word that solves the enigma the 't' of foot is uncrossed  
(b) united. untied  
(c) The letter 'M'  
(d) NOON

C. STABLE TABLE ABLE

**D. A puzzled beast**

FOX — OX — O — X

**E. Letters riddle**

- (a) The letter L.  
(b) The Letter E.  
(c) *The one you mail*  
(d) *It's the middle of day*  
(e) Sushil, where Dilip had had "had had", had had "had"; "had had" had had the professor's approval.  
(f) JUST ONE WORD  
(g) Monosyllable. Take away MO and leave NO SYLLABLE.

**77. Drop letter puzzle**

PIRATE IRATE RATE ATE

**78. Couplets**

- (a) DREAM-LAND (c) LIGHT-HOUSE  
(b) FRUIT-SALAD (d) PLAY-GROUND

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| (e) FIRE-WORKS | (g) HONEY-MOON       |
| (f) MINE-FIELD | (h) STRAIGHT-FORWARD |
| (i) LOOSE-END  |                      |

### 81. Quick Wits

- (a) You could drink water from the springs in the bed, and eat dates from the calendar.
- (b) The mother: Bread is a necessity; a locomotive is an invention; and "Necessity is the mother of invention."
- (c) A baby is a crier. A crier is a messenger. A messenger is one sent. A messenger is not worth two cents. Therefore a baby is not worth two cents.
- (d) A variety is a show. To show is to expose. To expose is to put out. To put out means to defeat. A defeat is a fall. Fall is a season. To season is to spice. Thus variety is the spice of life.
- (e) No cow has five legs. A cow has four legs more than no cow. Therefore a cow has nine legs.
- (f) Nothing is better than happiness; but ice-cream is better than nothing.
- (g) Look in the mirror and see what you saw. Take the saw and cut the table in half. Two halves makes a whole. Then get out through the hole!

### 82. Silent Letters

- (a) w; (b) t; (c) i; (d) d; (e) l; (f) p; (g) g;  
 (h) h; (i) i; (j) g; (k) w; (l) gh; (m) k; (n) t;  
 (o) p; (p) ue; (q) gh; (r) b; (s) l; (t) h; (u) s;  
 (v) g; (w) b; (x) gh; (y) b; (z) b.

### 84. The spoonerism

- (a) The Duke and the Duchess of Windsor used forks and spoons
- (b) You and your twin sister missed my history lectures
- (c) In Indian films kisses and hugs are not permitted
- (d) "Pass me the flour", said the flurried cook; "I have to sprinkle it on the trout."
- (e) A crushing blow; a half-formed wish.
- (f) A well-oiled bicycle.
- (g) The plot thickness
- (h) "Now listen mister," said the drunk. "though I seem under the influence of alcohol, I am not half as pickled as people think, as people think I am."
- (i) ...your slips are showing
- (j) I'm getting my shoes half-soled after I have a cup of coffee.



- (k) Scores of shells were fired in a bitter battle
- (l) As I walked down to the railway station, I met a dog and it barked at me. I pulled a stick out of a hedge and knocked its block off.
- (m) Twenty-one-gun salute
- (n) Polish folk

**86. What did they say**

- (a) Don't look. I'm changing.
- (b) You're boring me.
- (c) I'm matchless
- (d) Well, well...
- (e) You're too small to smoke.
- (f) I'm still a little horse (hoarse).
- (g) So long. See you on Friday.
- (h) I've got problems.
- (i) My pop is bigger than your pop.
- (j) That's the end of me.

**90. Abracadabra**

Palindromic word: RADAR.

Mirror words: BARD-DRAB; DAB-BAD

Words: abba, ABC, arc, arab, baa, bar, barb, brad, cab, car, card, crab